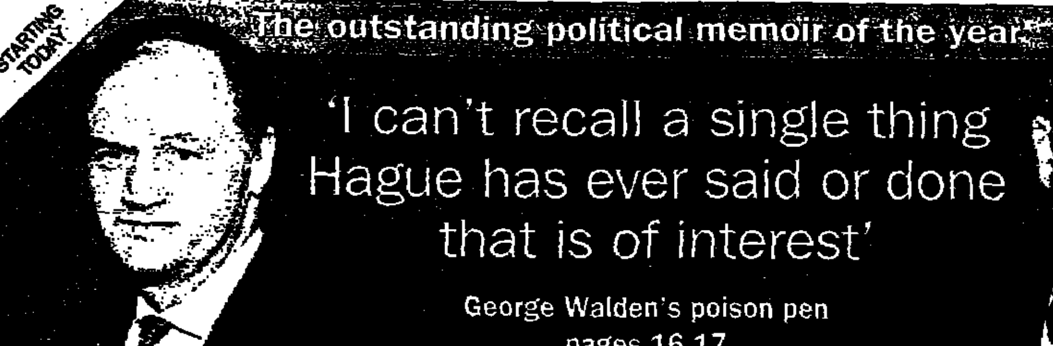
THE TIMES

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15 pages of sport
Arsenal take up the running
United and Chelsea falter in title race
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TOMORROW: FANTASY FORMULA ONE



●Bombs are blamed on far Right
●Jews fear they may be next target

Police say racists will strike again

BY STEWART TENDLER, RICHARD FORD AND JOANNA BALE

POLICE fear the neo-Nazi racists who planted nail bombs in Brixton and Brick Lane in London will strike again in other cities, and possibly against Jewish targets.

As Scotland Yard drafted extra detectives into the anti-terrorist branch yesterday and stepped up the hunt for the bombers, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said there was a constant danger until the "extremely evil, unpleasant" criminals and terrorists were caught.

The hunt for the bombers is Scotland Yard's top priority. Senior officers are well aware that their success will be closely monitored by ethnic communities in the wake of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry.

Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, yesterday condemned the attack in Brick Lane on Saturday evening as "an appalling outrage" and an attack on "innocent people in innocent communities". The police now had no doubt that the two attacks were racist. Sir Paul said: "We feared the Brixton bomb would be repeated and, tragically, it has been. We have had very serious fears there will be a continuing series of vicious attacks and we cannot rule out these attacks might be taken outside London."

As Sir Paul spoke, Yard officers were briefing other forces. A national meeting of chief constables on Wednesday will be told the latest developments in the investigations.

Outside London, there are potential targets in Slough, Luton, Birmingham, Leicester, Manchester, Bradford, Bristol, Nottingham, Leeds, the Lancashire mill towns and Glasgow. The Yard has also had talks in the last week with senior officials of the Jewish community. Michael Whine, from the British Board of Jewish Deputies, said yesterday that it was logical to think that Jews could be the next target.

In Saturday evening's attack, a nail bomb hidden inside a sports bag was left on the pavement in Hanbury Street, off Brick Lane, the centre of the biggest expatriate Bangladeshi community in the world. Police said the bomb appeared to be identical in make-up to the Brixton device.

It was found by a white man in his fifties in Hanbury Street, which is lined with shops and restaurants. He picked up the bag at about 17.37, walked round to Brick Lane and put it in the boot of his car. He looked at the contents and then closed the boot. According to police, he then became worried at what he might have found. He crossed the road to a small, part-time police station. It was closed. He decided not to move the car and walked to a former police station in Leman Street, which is now used as offices.

He tried to telephone police but as he did so, at 17.57, the bomb exploded. Six-inch nails were hurled 40 yards down the street, smashing shop windows. Six Asian people were injured slightly. An anti-terrorist officer said yestrerday that putting the bomb in the car had not reduced the power of the blast. The greater energy built up probably threw the nails further down the street.

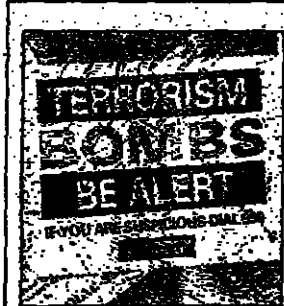
The bombing came at the end of a week in which a number of ethnic community groups received warnings, purporting to come from extremist groups, threatening that Brick Lane and other areas were to be attacked. Police patrols were increased, but Sir Paul said the network of streets in Spitalfields was difficult to monitor.

Two hours after the blast, a caller claimed that Combat 18, the most violent of the right-wing groups, had planted the bomb. The call was made in a terse 999 call from a telephone box in New Malden, south-west London.

Police say there has been an increase in threats from extremist groups since the report on the Stephen Lawrence case in February. The last week has also seen anniversaries of Hitler's birthday, St George's Day and the attack on Stephen.

The Southall Monitoring Project, in West London, said yesterday that it had received a handwritten letter from Combat 18 two days after the Brixton bomb, saying that there would be other attacks. The letter, which had a Hampshire postmark, gave warning of further attacks and named Southall, Slough, Tower Hamlets and Tottenham in London, Bradford and Dublin. The areas all have high concentrations of Indians, Pakistanis, Bangladeshis and black people. The letter suggested Dublin would be attacked because the group hated Roman Catholics.

ON OTHER PAGES



■ "There was a terribly loud bang and I saw this red car jump four foot in the air as its boot exploded." — victims describe the horror of Saturday's bombing in Brick Lane 5

■ Brick Lane has long been a violent fault line between refugee immigrants, and a hostile indigenous population. The first of the waves of immigrants were Huguenots fleeing from France after Louis XIV made Protestantism illegal in 1685. Jews escaping the pogroms of Russia and Poland arrived between 1880 and 1905 4

William Rees-Mogg 20

Leading article 21

CHRIS HARRIS



Land of his future: a refugee boy leads a column of ethnic Albanians who landed at Leeds from Skopje yesterday. The first batch, mainly women and children, were happy to leave Macedonian camps but worried about the families they left behind

Bewildered refugees find their haven in Britain

BY PAUL WILKINSON AT LEEDS BRADFORD AIRPORT AND STEPHEN FARREL IN SKOPJE

A SMALL boy stepped hestitantly off a set of aircraft steps yesterday to become the first Kosovan from the Balkan refugee camps to arrive on British soil.

The unfamiliar airport on the edge of Leeds and the ranks of waiting pressmen were all a little too much for Alben Maksuti, 4, and he needed a guiding hand from a member of the ground staff to steer him towards an airport bus and a future which nobody can yet predict.

Behind him came his mother, followed by a straggling column of bewildered refugees from the Macedonian camp at Stenkovic.

One was Avni Gosalci, 27, who fled with his wife Anita, 25, and their baby daughter Dielleza, two months old. He was relieved to be in Britain but concerned for the family he had left behind. "We are very grateful for everything this country has done," he said. Even in the camps, the British were sensitive and helpful."

The chemistry student from Pristina told how his family was given two minutes to leave their home by Serb police threatening them with knives, and said that he was allowed to escape only because of his daughter.

"I held the baby in my arms. Without the baby it would have been very difficult if not impossible to be allowed to cross the border. Because we had a baby we were lucky. Again we are very grateful to the baby for saving our lives."

Of the 161 on the three-hour flight from Skopje, 70 were children, eight of them aged under two. One, a schoolboy suffering from multiple sclerosis, was taken from the aircraft in his wheelchair aboard a specially adapted hoist. Most of the rest were women. Such was the confused state of events that officials in Leeds had no exact picture of who was aboard the Tupolev 154 jet until it had touched down.

The refugees' long day began when they boarded buses at the giant Brazde and Stenkovic camps after a last-minute medical check from doctors wearing masks. They climbed aboard four vehicles amid smiles, waves and tears and were driven to the airport, arriving at 10am and loading bags, suitcases and bin liners onto waiting trolleys.

The mood on board the buses was decidedly mixed, some families delighted to be leaving with everyone on board, others distraught at leaving behind sisters, cousins and friends. One boy, Visar, clutched a toy rabbit named Lepurosh, the Albanian for Bunny, as he trotted happily into the airport.

By contrast Fexherije Shala, 31, and her two sisters-in-law, Tebare and Behare, were reduced to tears as they were forced to leave behind Fexherije's sister Adlije. Unlike them, her name had not made it onto the reserve list.

They are here in England, but in their heads they are still in Kosovo," said Julia Purcell.

Continued on page 10, col 3

War reports, pages 8, 9
Peter Riddell, page 20
Letters, page 21

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Dashing Clinton fumbles America's nuclear football

Ben Macintyre in Washington on the day the President forgot Armageddon

A NEW and wholly unexpected threat to world security cropped up briefly during the weekend's Nato summit when President Clinton dashed off from a meeting and forgot to take with him the "nuclear football", a briefcase containing secret electronic launch codes for US nuclear missiles.

The football, a communications link with the Pentagon authorising the use of nuclear weapons, is carried by (and chained to) a military aide who is supposed to remain just feet from the President whenever he leaves the White House. But on Saturday Mr Clinton ended his International Trade Centre meeting and sped off in his motorcade, leaving behind the most dangerous handbag in the world.

The aide marched the half-mile to the White House, thankfully without being mugged, and reunited the President with his portable "button". "We're safe," Joe Lockhart, the White House spokesman, said. He added that the meeting had ended 45 minutes ahead of schedule, and "rather than wait for everyone to gather, he just took off".

The black attache case has been known as the "football" and passed with care from one president to the next since Eisenhower's day. The device, containing a telephone, two pull-up antennae and codes to identify the caller, would give the President a range of options in responding to a nuclear alert. The President also carries a card containing identification codes to launch a nuclear strike.

Mr Clinton is not the first president to fumble the football. In 1975 Gerald Ford arrived at an economic summit in Paris and discovered, with horror, that it had been left in a luggage compartment on Air Force One. "It was one of those things: Didn't you bring the football? No, I thought you had the football," Ron Nessen, the embarrassed White House press secretary, explained.

Jimmy Carter left the code-card in his suit when it was sent to the dry-cleaners, and Ronald Reagan was separated from it when shot by John Hinkley in 1981. Later it was discovered that the FBI had seized it as evidence.

Mr Clinton's Russian counterpart is accompanied by an aide carrying a "cheget", although there are rumours that it may be simply symbolic. According to a 1996 CIA report, Mr Yeltsin's first defence minister was asked whether he and the President could "push the button" for a nuclear attack. "Yes," came the answer. "But nothing would happen."



"Viewers who do not want to be depressed should turn away now..."

Former IOC chief dies

Lord Killanin, the former IOC President, died at his home in Dublin yesterday. He was 84. He is survived by his wife, three sons and a daughter. Lord Killanin began to break down the rigid inflexibility of the Olympic committee during his eight-year reign as President from 1972 23

Meldrew is resurrected

BBC Television is resurrecting *One Foot in the Grave* after recent new sitcoms proved disappointing. *One Foot in the Grave*, starring Richard Wilson as Victor Meldrew, attracted audiences of 16 million and repeats have been achieving 10 million viewers. The new series was announced yesterday at the Montreux Television Festival 7

Mark Goldberg, owner of Crystal Palace football club, has lost more than £7 million in business ventures in addition to the £22 million he invested in the Nationwide First Division club 44

■ **Greg Dyke's financial contributions to the Labour Party disqualify him from being a serious candidate for the job of Director-General of the BBC. Paul Fox, a former Controller of BBC1 and Managing Director of BBC Television, argues in a letter to the Editor today .. 21**

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Ming leads way as LibDems bang their drum

THREE-BUTTON blue blazer, suede slip-ons, Saturday shirt, silk tie ... and a certain bearing. These are the attire of a parliamentary prince in his patch.

Not that Menzies Campbell lords it. In the way that an educated Scot of a certain class can, the Liberal Democrat MP for North East Fife succeeds effortlessly in being of the people, for the people and above the people, all at the same time. And in prosperous Fife, the combination of looking like a Tory and not being one is irresistible. It would be inappropriate for Ming (as Scots pronounce the abbreviated Menzies) to act as though he were anybody special; but everyone around him will. The yellow banner they've draped across the shopfront of his HQ in Cupar says "Menzies Campbell QC, CBE ROM".

His party's Leader is shortly to retire, and there have been discreet murmurs that, if pressed — if friends are determined, his name should go forward — well ... Ming would not wish to *shirk*. But that's for another day. Today the campaign is for the local LibDem candidate in the Scottish Parliamentary elections, Iain Smith.

And nobody marshals a campaign better than Ming. We gather in his cramped office. The splendid Elspeth ("Mrs Campbell" has never sounded right) upbraids *The Times*: "You are *wicked* to seek us out like this." Her husband explains the purpose of a Liberal Democrat walkabout: "Little talking. Pace. Don't tarry. We want people to say, 'Lord — the ruddy street's full of Liberal Democrats'. Smile; big handshake; introduce Iain; move on. If anyone seems unwilling — no argument, polite smile and move on. Now, big smiles everybody: cheerful, happy ... and we're off!"

He does it brilliantly. "Keep up! Cross the road ... *now*." Small boys on bikes decide we are a cavalcade, and join. Ladies with sticks are wooed. "Are you in good form? How's Mr Andrews?" A cake shop is flattered. "Best cream cakes in the world." "Keep up, keep up." We sweep past a small stall at which the Labour candidate is trying with little success to hand out purple balloons. "He's a very good, hard-working man," says Campbell, sincerely.

"You'll have my vote," says a white-haired little lady. "You're always here."

"Good morning ladies, I'm your MP." They know. So does a man in a cap: "Oh yes, I recognise your face from television." Ming is having a good Balkan war.

To fall into the slipstream behind a Campbell cavalcade is to encounter a stream of dazed pedestrians nursing bruised hands and staring at Liberal Democrat calling cards. "Don't you feel a bit overshadowed?" I ask the pleasant young candidate, who is also falling behind. "Oh no — the photo on the card shows him talking to me," he replies.

Ming storms a wine shop. The owner is protesting about a new Tesco supermarket: "A cancer on the edge of town; they're like a drag-net fishing fleet ..." but, tactfully sympathetic, the MP moves on. He terrifies a small dog and overwhelms four small ladies. It is hard not to get swept along with the LibDem spirit. "I've put your poster up," a lady says to me. "Thank you so much," I hear myself replying.

At the Ferryfield Playgroup coffee morning (no rosettes) Campbell is asked to judge the children's flower arranging competition. "It's the very substance of politics," says Ming.

He needs no introduction. The winner is declared. "And now the guess-the-name-of-the-bunny contest. The name was ... Poppy!" "Poppy!" exclaims the audience in delight. This is a long way from Kosovo.

Leadership fight, page 12

Hague unruffled by split with Old Guard

By Philip Webster
Political Editor

WILLIAM HAGUE delivered a "like it, or lump it" message to his Tory critics last night as he prepared to take the break with his party's Thatcherite past a stage further.

Mr Hague declared that if colleagues' feathers had been ruffled over his rejection of health and education privatisation, they would have to "get unruffled because that is the way I am going to carry on".

Having authorised Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, to make plain today that the Tories would match in government the massive Labour increases in spending on health and education, the Tory leader was going out of his way to stress that he would not be deflected by the fierce reaction in the Tory press and among Thatcherite members of the Shadow Cabinet against his tactics.

That was underlined again yesterday when Michael Howard, who led the internal criticism last week of the speech by Peter Lilley ruling out big private sector solutions for health and education, made his own irritation publicly obvious. When it was put to him on BBC TV's *Breakfast with Frost* that he was furious about the whole episode, Mr Howard did not demur but added to Sir David Frost: "Peter Lilley made a speech. If you want Peter to talk about his speech I am sure he would be delighted to come on to your programme."

Another member of the Shadow Cabinet denounced the Lilley-Hague strategy as "crazy — how can we ever promise to cut taxes again?"

But sources close to Mr Hague pointed to Mr Maude's intervention today — "After Hague he is the most important man in the Tory Party" — as an indication that the leadership was in tune with changing times. Other Tory sources said it helped Mr Hague that the Old Guard and Thatcherite elements of the press were against him.

"His mission is to change the party. That is bound to give him trouble from those who believe their achievements are being slighted.

Confirming Tory support for the Government's planned spending totals on health and education, Mr Maude will say: "In government we sometimes sounded as if we were only interested in markets and accountancy. But someone suffering from cancer is a patient who wants to be cared for, not a customer within the internal market ... So I want to make this absolutely clear, without ambiguity, without scope for distortion. In opposition we will support and in government we will implement the increases in health and education spending announced by Gordon Brown."

Mr Hague said on Radio 5 Live's *Sunday Breakfast* programme: "What we got clear this week and what we will go on getting clear is that the Conservative Party believes in strong public services. I feel very strongly about this. I went to a comprehensive school myself. I use the National Health Service myself.

"I am not going to have my party caricatured any longer as a party that wants to destroy these things. We are going to get that straight and keep that straight.

" Of course it ruffles a few feathers if you do that. But they will have to get unruffled because that is the way I am going to carry on."

Alan Milburn, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, seized on the move.

He said: "The Tories are all over the place. They describe Labour's spending plans as 'reckless' then they say they agree with them. They say they want more private health care, then they say they're against privatising the NHS."





William Hague, left, is keen to distance himself from the policies of Thatcherites such as Michael Howard

Walden takes party to task

Former minister condemned Major as 'pathetic', writes Philip Webster

WILLIAM HAGUE has "something of the nerd about him." Kenneth Clarke's forte is "not giving a sod, and being a lazy sod somehow increases the attraction."

The more John Redwood tries to behave like a normal person "the madder he looks." Michael Portillo's immaturity "stems from his obsession with his name and appearance." John Major: "I could never convince myself he was a real person."

These and a host of other unflattering observations about the politicians who made up the last Conservative Cabinet are made today by George Walden, the former Tory minister, in his book which is being serialised in *The Times*.

Mr Walden, who stood down at the last election, delivers biting, sometimes insulting, judgments on the men who failed to win a fifth successive Tory term.

But the book also contains some fresh insights into the Tory slide towards disaster in 1997 and the state of mind of the man who led them.

He discloses that 30 minutes before the crucial vote on the Maastricht Treaty in 1993 a depressed John Major called him into his office to try to persuade him to back the Government rather than abstain as he had during the passage of the legislation.

The Government looked to be on the point of defeat, a reverse which could well have resulted in Mr Major's fall. The Prime Minister stunned Mr Walden by suddenly saying "I didn't ask for this job."

Mr Walden writes: "His remark was pathetic. But the pathos worked." he backed the Government which, with other ministers employing similar persuasive techniques, managed to win by three votes. He writes that he did not recall Mr Major thanking him. "Perhaps the man who had told me that he hadn't asked to be prime minister didn't really want to win."

However, it will be Mr Walden's verdicts on the men still leading today's Tory party that will give most ammunition to its critics. He says of Mr Hague: "In all the years we were in Parliament together somehow I can't recall a single thing he has ever said or done that is of interest. When I think of William Hague, nothing occurs to me."

He says whenever he talked to Mr Hague to ask his opinion he either smiled or giggled. "I am told it was the same when he was in Cabinet, though there it was more smiles than giggles ... He has all Major's niceness and decency, in corporate form, and there seems no harm in him, because where there is no personality there can be no harm."

Memoirs, pages 16 and 17

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sinn Fein gives warning of a summer of violence

SINN FEIN stepped up its pressure on the Government yesterday with a warning that members of Northern Ireland's assembly could be killed in a summer of violence if the Good Friday peace accord was not swiftly implemented (writes Martin Fletcher).

The peace process was already in "very deep crisis", said Mitchell McLaughlin, the party chairman. If the government "parked" the accord because of the decommissioning dispute "there will be nothing to come back to. We know what the loyalists are going to do this marching season."

He added: "There could be members of this assembly dead by the time this summer is over."

BSE inquiry to cost £25m

The public inquiry into BSE looks set to cost as much as £25 million and is now unlikely to report to ministers before the spring next year (Valerie Elliott writes). This is the second time the inquiry team has missed its deadline and senior ministers are so unhappy with the length of time and extra costs that the final timespan for the work has not yet been agreed. The Prime Minister was expected to have formally announced a new deadline for the inquiry after Easter. The inquiry team defend their work and insist they are trying to ensure "fairness" to every witness.

Wrinkly idols push pensions





CAMPAIGNERS from Age Concern are trying to shock young people into planning for their retirements by showing what their pop idols would look like in old age.

Using computer graphics, the charity has produced pictures of the disc jockey Chris Evans, above, with grey hair instead of ginger, and the Posh Spice singer, Victoria Adams, above, as a wrinkled grandmother.

Age Concern is responding to a survey which shows 49 per cent of those between 16 and 24 think they should start planning for retirement only when they are over 35.

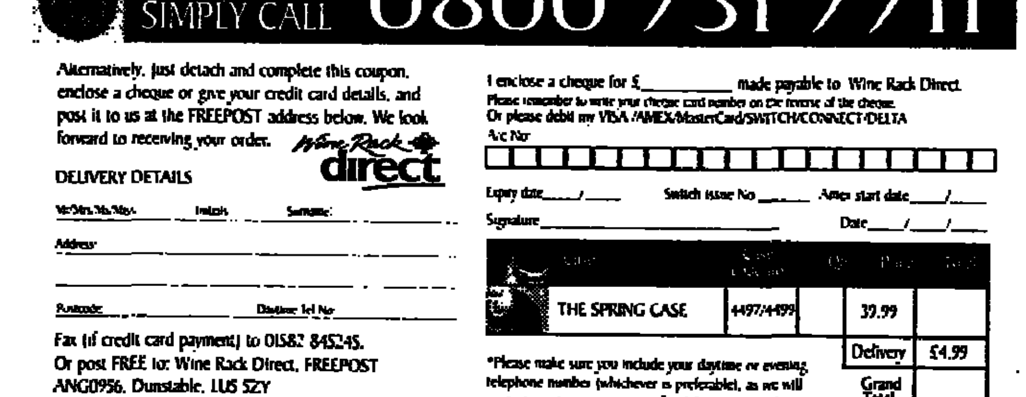
"That's far too late," said Sally Greengross, who chairs the Debate of the Age, to prepare for an ageing population.

Royal Parks 'facing decay'

The country's Royal Parks are under threat from too many concerts, decay due to underfunding and illegal hot dog salesmen (Nick Nuttall writes).

In a letter to *Chris Smith*, the Heritage Secretary, the Friends of the Royal Parks Forum are demanding more government action and funding to tackle growing levels of decay and deterioration — from rotting railings and buildings to unsightly paths and landscaping.

They claim that some of funding solutions, including big pop concerts, put the parks at risk. A Royal Parks Agency spokesman said the parks needed to pay their way.









Woody and Soon-Yi show off their mystery child

Neurotic film star's lack of parenting skills put to test, writes James Bone



Bechet, left, product of Woody Allen's new relationship and earlier, during his marriage to Mia Farrow

MICHAEL FERGUSON



Speculation is rife that the baby paraded by Woody Allen and Soon-Yi is adopted

WOODY Allen and his young bride, Soon-Yi Previn, played the proud parents at the weekend when they paraded their new baby girl up New York's fashionable Madison Avenue in a pram.

The neurotic actor, who was once reprimanded by a judge for lacking "any parenting skills", told a pursuing photographer: "Yes, it's our baby."

The controversial couple, who have a 35-year age difference, said they had named the child Bechet Dumaine Allen — thought to be a tribute to Sidney Bechet, the late, great jazz clarinetist, and Jean Doumanian, the director's longtime confidant and producer.

Mr Allen, 63, refused to reveal how old the infant was beyond saying she was "a few months". The child appeared to have Asian features, like her Korean-born mother, but Soon-Yi Previn, 28, has not looked pregnant in recent public appearances and there was speculation that the baby, like her mother, was adopted.

Still in swaddling clothes, Bechet becomes the latest player in a family drama that makes even Mr Allen's tortured comedies look tame.

The scandal broke back in 1992 when Mr Allen's longtime companion, Mia Farrow, found nude photographs of Soon-Yi, then a 21-year-old college student, on the mantelpiece of his flat on Fifth Avenue. In her autobiography, *What Falls Away*, the actress recalls how she confronted Mr Allen, screaming: "You're meant to do the right thing. You're not supposed to f*** the kids."

Ms Farrow, star of *Rosemary's Baby*, had adopted Soon-Yi in 1977 on a trip to Korea with her second husband, the conductor Andre Previn. The two divorced in 1979 and Ms Farrow began dating Mr Allen in 1980.

One of seven children of the Australian film director John Farrow and the Irish actress Maureen O'Sullivan, Ms Farrow has herself been described by Mr Allen as a "thrill mom". She now has a total of ten adopted children and four biological offspring.

During their 13-year relationship, Ms Farrow and Mr Allen adopted a son, Moses, and a daughter, Dylan, and had a natural son named Satchel.

Although he has known Soon-Yi since she was eight, Mr Allen insists that he never played the father-figure to his future bride because he and Ms Farrow never married and always lived apart on opposite sides of Central Park.

The discovery of the affair so shocked Ms Farrow that she launched a bitter battle for custody of Dylan, Moses and Satchel, and publicly accused Mr Allen of molesting their adopted daughter, then aged seven.

Although the director was never prosecuted for child abuse, he was barred from seeing his children without a monitor in the room and is now reportedly estranged from all three.

Mr Allen and Soon-Yi eloped to Venice, where they were married in a ceremony in the town hall. In what was seen as an effort to restore his reputation, Mr Allen, who plays clarinet when he is not writing, directing or acting in his films, allowed Barbara Kopple, the Oscar-winning documentary maker, to follow him and Soon-Yi as they toured Europe with his jazz band. In the documentary, *Wild Man Blues*, Mr Allen and his bride are seen canoodling in a gondola, swimming in a hotel pool, sharing breakfast in their bathrobes and even lying in bed together. At one point, the girlish Soon-Yi teases her older husband for being a "nerd".

☐ Hundreds of props and costumes from a decade of Woody Allen films went under the auctioneer's hammer in a New York warehouse on Saturday. The 432 lots of movie history boxes of "realistic rotting skulls" from the film *Shadows and Fog* and a pair of gold-and-red sofas used in *Crimes and Misdemeanours* and *Bullets Over Broadway*.

DJ suspended over cocaine allegations

BY MICHAEL PATERSON



Walker: an investigation by head of BBC Radio

JOHNNIE WALKER, the Radio 2 DJ, has been suspended from his job after allegations that he took cocaine and offered to supply prostitutes.

The 55-year-old, who hosts the weekday drivetime show and a Saturday afternoon show, is alleged to have snorted cocaine in a hotel in London and arranged prostitutes for undercover reporters from the *News of the World*.

It is claimed that he was trapped on a hidden video camera snorting cocaine through a rolled-up bank note and is facing a possible police investigation.

A BBC spokesman said yesterday: "Johnnie Walker has been suspended from his Radio 2 show pending a full BBC investigation to be led by Jenny Abramsky, the BBC's director of radio."

Walker, who was born Peter Dingley and grew up in Solihull, was one of the early DJs on Radio 1, which he joined from the pirate station Radio Caroline. But he has had a stormy relationship with the Corporation.

He left the station in 1976 after seven years because of a disagreement over what records should be played. This followed an outburst on air when he described the Bay City Rollers, then Britain's most popular group, as playing "musical garbage".

After a short-lived spell at a radio station in San Francisco, he returned to Britain and a had a year unemployed before starting back in local radio. He returned to Radio 1 in 1987.

The twice-divorced father-of-two, one of many DJs to have been dubbed the "housewives' favourite", was recruited by Radio 2 in recent years because it was eager to appeal to a younger audience.

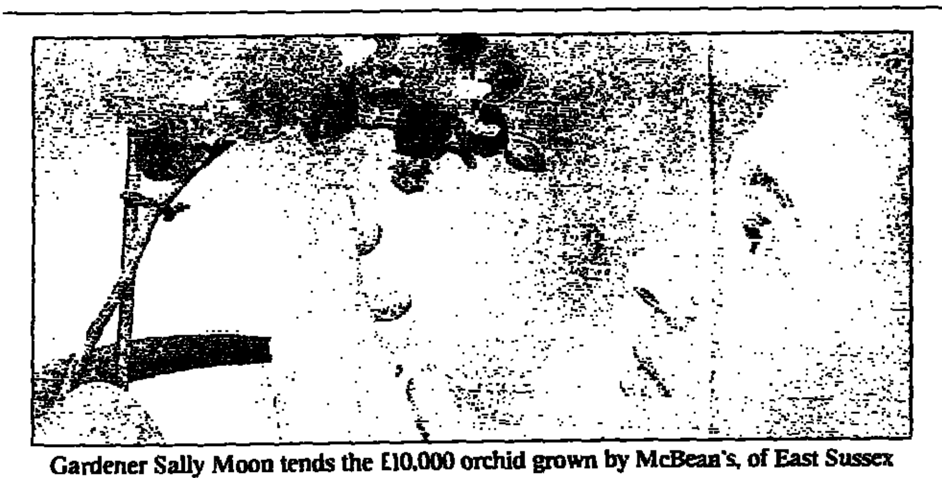
A spokesman for the Metropolitan Police said: "If anything of this sort is brought to our attention we will investigate accordingly. We will look at the evidence if it's appropriate."

Walker became a second-hand car salesman in Birmingham and began to moonlight as a DJ in local venues.

He soon entered the world of pirate radio stations, with jobs on Radio England and more famously Radio Caroline, which broadcast round-the-clock from a ship off the coast of Essex and became outlawed under the Marine Offences Bill on August 14, 1967.

During his first spell with Radio 1 he established a reputation as a DJ for whom the records he played were more important than the chat in between and he championed new names like Steve Harley, Lou Reed, Fleetwood Mac and the Eagles.

His outspoken views and insistence that he should play album tracks and not just records on the "playlist" led him to resign from the BBC in 1976. He headed for the United States and joined local radio station K-San. He returned to England in the early 1980s and completed stints at local radio stations Radio West and Wiltshire Radio. In April 1998, he returned to the BBC, this time joining Radio 2.



Gardener Sally Moon tends the £10,000 orchid grown by McBean's, of East Sussex

Goose guard put on alert to protect prize red orchid

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE

A RED ORCHID is being guarded around the clock by security guards, dogs and a gaggle of geese.

The moth orchid (novelty *phalaenopsis*), said to be the finest example of its colour grown in the world, is estimated to be worth more than £10,000. Orchids usually sell for no more than £20 each.

McBean's Orchids are so worried that the flower could be stolen they have posted territorial geese (along with other security) around the 120-year-old nursery. The geese would flap and cackle loudly if anyone went near the greenhouse where it is being kept.

The flower has been given an Award of Merit by the Royal Horticultural Society's Orchid Committee, in acknowledgement of the uniform colour of its petals. The society has commissioned a painting of the flower because it does not think photographs could portray its true colour.

McBean's hope to breed from the orchid but do not expect to start selling red orchids for at least three years. Betty Arnold, secretary of the Orchid Society, said: "Red is not a colour one normally associates with phalaenopsis. They are usually shades of pinks, white and yellow, which was the new colour a few years ago."

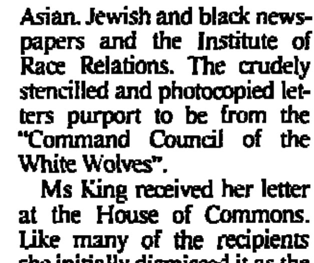
The flower was bred from seeds imported from Taiwan at McBean's premises at Cooksbridge, East Sussex, where they grow orchids for export.

Tony Cramp, 51, said he had grown more than 10,000 orchids at the nursery before producing the perfect colour. He has named the flower Lewes Festival after the annual celebration in the East Sussex town.

Dr Henry Oakeley, of the RHS Orchid Committee, said that breeding the flower was a tremendous achievement. "The orchid is unique in the sense of its true red colour which is uniform right out to the edges of the petals."

Mr Cramp said: "We couldn't believe it when we saw it. Everyone's chuffed that all our hard work's come to fruition."

‘White Wolves’ emerge from hiding



Group that has threatened black peers and MPs may be behind attacks, reports Helen Rumbelow

A RACIST group called the White Wolves has emerged as the key suspect for the London bombings after threatening to kill all non-whites and Jews two days before the attacks began.

Black peers and MPs, including Oona King, in whose constituency the second bombing took place, announced yesterday that they had received threats from the group before the Brixton bombing.

The White Wolves, who have demanded that all Jews and non-whites leave Britain by the end of the year, are one of four far-Right organisations that have claimed responsibility for the Brixton attack.

The group favours the philosophy of "leaderless resistance" — forming small cells of two or three members to carry out random attacks, according to Gerry Gable, the publisher of the anti-Fascist magazine *Searchlight*. He said that those tactics made it a much more likely suspect than the most well-known extreme right group, Combat 18, which is under intense police surveillance.

Five years ago the White Wolves published a 15-page internal document explaining how to orchestrate violent attacks on ethnic minorities while avoiding detection, using tactics such as maintaining membership of other far right organisations.

The booklet begins with the Rudyard Kipling poem, *The Beginnings*, with the line "Time shall count from the date/That the English began to hate".

It gives advice on bomb making, although it does not mention using nails. Mr Gable believes that the White Wolves may have been behind the bomb attempt made on him in 1994, as well as other sophisticated bomb attempts for which they have not claimed responsibility.

"It is possible that someone in the group may have been a former member of Combat 18, but realised that it had been infiltrated and moved away again," he said.

Mr Gable estimates that the White Wolves had between four and ten main agitators.

"But these people may go banging on for some time to come before anyone gets close to them," he said.

The group posted dozens of threats, all versions of three or four slightly different letters, in Central London on April 14. Several were received by Asian, Jewish and black newspapers and the Institute of Race Relations. The crudely stencilled and photocopied letters purport to be from the "Command Council of the White Wolves".

Ms King received her letter at the House of Commons. Like many of the recipients she initially dismissed it as the work of cranks, but has since handed the letter to the police for investigation.

"Although it's aimed at terrorising the local population I think it will backfire because it hardens resolve amongst the majority of decent British people to make sure we stamp out racism," she said.

The group's name, a popular term among fascists, may be inspired by the "Werewolf" Nazi resistance planned by Hitler for occupied Germany. Heinrich Himmler imagined the guerrilla movement springing up "behind their backs time and time again ... like werewolves, brave as death, volunteers will strike the enemy." The name has been used by English football hooligans and by South African terrorists who claim responsibility for bomb attacks in black communities.

The White Wolves are the least well known of about a dozen British far-right organisations. The first, the National Front, was established in 1967. Its membership peaked at about 17,500 in the early seventies, but by in 1982 it was in near-terminal decline.

The British National Party was formed out of a split, with roughly 600 members. The BNP did have democratic political success when a member, Derek Beackon, served as a Tower Hamlets councillor in the early 1990s. This week a "Young BNP" Website came under investigation by the police for its racist message.

In 1992, racists frustrated by the perceived mildness of the BNP formed Combat 18 as a "defence force" for the League of St George, a white supremacist group founded in 1972.

Combat 18 recently told Cherry Short, Labour's Jamaican-born candidate for Monmouthshire in the Welsh Assembly elections, to "withdraw or else" and daubed her car with swastikas. Over the past few years, however, its membership is estimated to have dwindled from 200 to 30.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20
Leading article, page 21

STATEMENT BY THE COMMAND COUNCIL OF THE WHITE WOLVES

codeword: statement begins:

"Notice is hereby given that all non-whites & jews (defined by blood, not religion) must permanently leave The British Isles before the year is out.

Jews & non whites who remain after 1999 has ended will be exterminated.

When the clock strikes midnight on 31/12/99 the White Wolves will begin to howl, & when the wolves begin to howl, the wolves begin to hunt.

You have been warned.

HAIL BRITANNIA!"

The threat received by *Eastern Eye*, an Asian newspaper



Anti-Nazi protesters wave banners at the end of Brick Lane yesterday after the latest incident in a long history of racist violence in the area

Fault line with history of violent eruptions

By Dominic Kennedy

BRICK LANE, at the heart of the East End, has long been a violent fault line between refugee immigrants and a hostile indigenous population.

The same street corners and pubs where the National Front notoriously gathered in the 1970s were used by Major Evans-Gordon and his anti-alien British Brothers' League agitators in 1901.

Brick Lane was named after the brick kilns first fired in 1576. The first immigrants were Huguenots fleeing from France after Louis XIV made Protestantism illegal.

The Huguenots were silk weavers and were immediately attacked by apprentice workers, whose wages they undercut. They enjoyed a monopoly on the silk trade until the 19th century, when it collapsed.

Jews fleeing the pogroms of Russia and Poland arrived between 1880 and 1905. But work was short and, seen as competitors for scarce employment, the Jews were demonised.



Sir Oswald Mosley inspecting the Blackshirts in the East End

Brick Lane was divided between immigrant and native along an imaginary line, known as the "frontier post", where the railway bridge and brewery stood. North of this boundary was the old borough of Bethnal Green, a close-knit community where the insular hostility to newcomers could be exploited.

South of the line was multicultural Whitechapel, where the Jews, and later the Bengalis, settled.

The northern area was a recruiting ground for the British Union of Fascists in the 1930s, and later for Column 88 and the League of St George.

In 1936 Sir Oswald Mosley and 3,000 Blackshirts tried to march through the East End, chanting "We must get rid of the Yids" — their way cleared by 6,000 police, some on horseback, using baton charges.

In what became known as the Battle of Cable Street, 100,000 opponents, including Jews, communists and socialists, shouting "They shall not pass", threw bricks, bottles, sticks and paving stones, and erected barricades until police halted the march.

In the 1970s, the skinhead era arrived and "Paki-bashing" entered the language.

But a symbol of Brick Lane's resilience remains — a former L'Eglise Protestante de France, which became in turn a Wesleyan chapel, a Jewish synagogue and is now a mosque.

Southall puts 100 volunteers on streets as fear spreads

By Richard Ford, home correspondent, and Joanna Bale

ONE hundred volunteers from anti-racist groups and the Asian community will patrol Southall next weekend because they fear that the West London borough is the next bombing target.

In other parts of the country, community leaders are calling for more police patrols, the banning of neo-Nazi groups and greater use of closed circuit television.

While most admitted that it would be difficult for the police to counter the terrorists and urged ethnic communities to remain calm, one man gave warning that if the attacks continued there was a danger of vigilante activity. Joe Allen, of the Montserrat Community Association in Leicester, said: "If this continues you will get people organising. People are not going to lie down and take this kind of attack. There is a danger of vigilante-style operations."

The decision to put 100 men and women on the streets of Southall was made yesterday at a hastily organised meeting of the Southall Monitoring Project and representatives of local temples and mosques.

Suresh Grover, from the monitoring project, said that the people on patrol would not wear uniforms but would have an armband from his organisation or the National Civil Rights movement. "People are very shocked and very apprehensive about what might happen next. The 100 anti-racist safety volunteers will go around Southall keeping an eye out for suspicious packages and any suspicious vehicles.

"The ethnic minority community is now in an unparalleled situation. We have suffered a long history of racial hostility and attacks against individuals and families, but this is racial terrorism."

In other towns and cities, community leaders are anxiously waiting to see if the attacks spread out of London. Mohammed Ajeeb, deputy leader of Bradford council, said Asians in the city were anxious about what would be bombed next. "Whoever is involved is using tactics that are scaring, frightening and intimidating other parts of Britain with large ethnic minority communities."

Jews are worried that they may be the next target. Michael Whine, an official with the British Board of Jewish Deputies, said: "If there is a pattern beginning with an attack on blacks, the Asians next, it would be logical to assume that Jews would be third or fourth."

The Jews have trained volunteers in a community security service who provide protection at synagogues and hotels during all Jewish celebrations and functions. The men patrol the pavement directly outside synagogues, search people before they enter the building and check on parked cars.

Most synagogues and many Jewish schools are monitored by closed-circuit television cameras. Mr Whine said the board had held discussions with Sikhs and Hindus over providing greater protection to temples. Short of putting CCTV on every street, it was impossible to provide total security.



Brick Lane in the aftermath of the bomb yesterday

A Jewish bagel shop was among organisations that received warnings ahead of the Brick Lane bomb, together with a local mosque and a community newspapar.

Siddartha Shivdasani, editor of the Asian newspaper, *Eastern Eye*, was threatened immediately before and after the Brixton bomb. He said: "Two days before the Brixton bomb we received a threatening letter from the White Wolves. At the time it was dismissed as a hoax. But on Sunday, after the Brixton bomb, I informed the police about the letter.

"On Monday we received another anonymous phone call from a man who simply said: 'You know the Brixton bomb. You're next'. Again we informed the police. "We feel the police should have instructed the public to be extra vigilant."

Raxita Shah, a trader, was more sympathetic. "London is full of ethnic areas which are all getting threats," she said. "They cannot put extra policing everywhere. They don't have the resources."

Europe fears far-Right campaign

From Roger Boyes in Bonn

GERMAN police investigating neo-Nazi activity have been put on alert after the two apparently racially motivated bomb attacks in London.

"There are long-standing contacts between Combat 18 and far-Right groups in Germany," said a senior officer, expressing fears that attacks could be conducted across Europe. The German equivalent of Combat 18 is the Viking Youth movement. Police forces in cities with a high density of foreigners — especially Berlin, with its large Turkish and Kurdish populations — are stepping up their intelligence work.

The main fear seems to be the popular unwillingness to take in a new wave of refugees from the Balkans. Some 10,000 Kosovans have already been accepted by the Germans and memories are still fresh as to how the flood of Bosnian refugees — more than 300,000 of them — created a groundswell of support for the far right.

Co-ordination between German, Austrian, Italian and British racist groups is carried out via the Internet, and although there was no major effort to mark Hitler's birthday on April 20, the various groups seem to be planning an international celebration on the anniversary of the death of Rudolf Hess, Hitler's deputy, in August.

Europe's most powerful and popular extreme right-wing movements are French, but there is no recent evidence of links to terrorist activities. Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of the National Front, has built up links with the far right across Europe and has been seen with former SS members in Germany.

There are no reports of public meetings with British extremists, but French police say it is highly likely that private contacts have been established.

Victim tells how huge explosion ripped car apart

By Joanna Bale

WITNESSES to the Brick Lane bomb explosion described how the bustling street erupted into chaos as dozens of screaming people were showered with shards of glass and metal.

Some were on their way to a service at the London Jamme Masjid mosque, others were the first evening diners arriving at Indian restaurants and many were shoppers heading home from the market.

Emdad Talukder, 44, was pierced in the head by a large piece of glass when the bomb exploded a few feet from him as he chatted to his GP. Nursing a deep gash in his scalp yesterday, he said: "There was a terribly loud bang and I saw this red car jump four feet in the air as its boot exploded.

"The lid of the boot was ripped off and it flew up about 25 feet high. There was a huge fire and it went dark because



Mr Talukder tending his head wound on Saturday

the air was filled with thick, black smoke. People were running and shouting. We ran into a side street and I felt that my *hands* were wet. I looked down and saw them covered in blood."

Mr Talukder, who works for an educational charity at Toynbee Hall near by, was treated on the scene by his GP, Hosne Haq, who has a practice in Brick Lane. She said yesterday: "When the bomb went off we thought we were about to die. There was glass flying everywhere and a huge fire. I thought a building would collapse on top of us."

Dr Haq, who was with her husband, Abul, her sister, Eti Chowdhury, and a friend, Kulsum Huq, another GP, was on her way home to North London from rehearsals for a Bangladeshi cultural evening. She removed the glass from Mr Talukder's head, stemming the blood with handkerchiefs.

"He was bleeding very heavily," she said. "I swabbed his wound with one hand and with the other rang the police on my *mobile telephone*.

"When an ambulance arrived, the paramedic was looking for more seriously injured people. Thankfully, everyone suffered only minor injuries."



The explosion set off a fire which engulfed an estate car parked behind the vehicle in which the bomb exploded outside Brick Lane police station

Her husband said: "The explosion was so loud that I went temporarily deaf. It was absolutely terrifying and I honestly thought I was about to die.

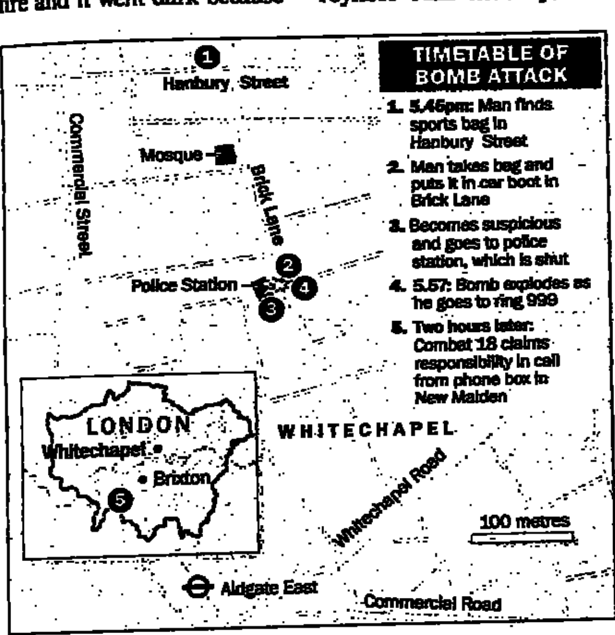
"I have been in this country for 31 years and seen so many IRA atrocities, but this is the first time I have seen something like this. It's extremely disturbing. Everyone is scared that they will be next."

Shahid Ahmed, 18, was serving in the Sweet and Spice restaurant. He said: "All the windows at the front of the restaurant shattered and I went deaf. I ran down into the basement to get away. I have never been so frightened."

Muquim Ahmed, the owner of Café Naz, which was devastated by the blast, was with his wife Rashmi and five-year-old daughter, Monique, in Brick Lane. He said: "The force of the explosion went right through us and there was masses of fire and smoke.

"My wife fainted at the shock of it all and my daughter was screaming hysterically, but we were lucky not to be injured."

Arif Ullha, 27, Mr Ahmed's tandoori chef, suffered cuts from flying glass. He said: "If I hadn't been at the back of the restaurant I would have been killed."



Police chiefs in emergency talks to halt bombers

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

WITHIN hours of the Brick Lane bomb a dozen senior police officers and security experts in London were called to an emergency meeting.

The Security Review Group, which oversees the capital's protection from terrorist attack, rarely meets on a Sunday. Now the Yard is so concerned at the threat from neo-Nazi terrorists that Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, called the group from their weekend breaks into session yesterday.

They include officers from MI5, the City of London force and British Transport Police who were brought together to analyse the threat and make decisions about protecting the capital and catching the bomber. Membership includes the heads of the Special Branch and the Anti-Terrorist Branch, senior crime commanders and assistant commissioners.

After the bomb in Brixton, the Yard had increased foot patrols across London in areas with large ethnic-minority communities, including the Brick Lane area, in the East End. Officers were moved from patrols in Central London and yesterday the group agreed that the police presence would be raised again in the streets of about a dozen areas in London with high concentrations of people from ethnic minorities.

The Yard is also urging all businesses, shops and councils in London to make sure private closed-circuit television systems are working.

But the key question before the group meeting yesterday at the Yard was how to catch the bomber or bombers.

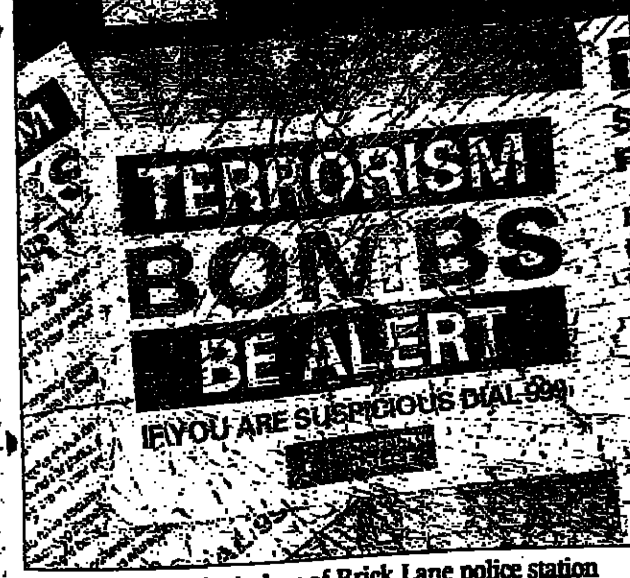
The groups on the Far Right have been extensively infiltrated by police and MI5. On the night of the Brixton bomb, Combat 18 supporters were at a private concert of right-wing rock music in Coventry. Detectives keeping watch found the Combat 18 members as surprised by the bomb as everyone else.

Special Branch in London has a small team watching the extreme Right. This is likely to be enlarged and the Yard will probably create an intelligence cell to sift all the information about the two bombs.

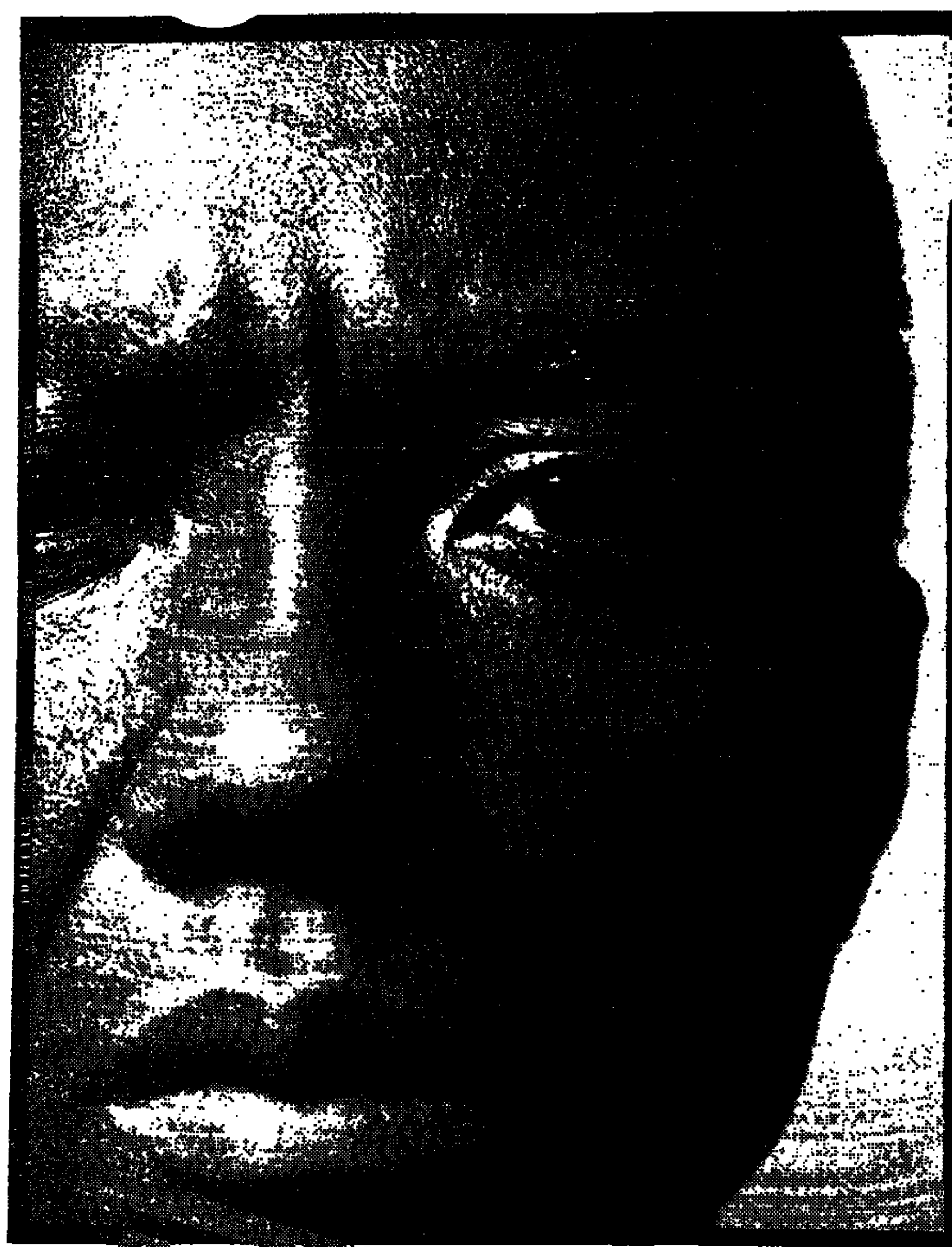
An expert in psychological profiles has been called in: he will work with analysts to get a picture of possible suspects. One question they will consider is why the bombs began when they did: none of the telephoned claims have given a reason such as the publication of the Stephen Lawrence report or anniversaries such as Hitler's birthday.

Police are also reviewing files on 400 to 500 extremists, looking for any with a history of violence and the technical capability to make the bombs. They believe there are only about 30 hardcore activists within Combat 18 but on the fringes there are others about whom little is known.

Interpol has been asked to contact other European forces for intelligence; MI5 has links to intelligence services on the Continent. The Yard is aware of links between neo-Nazis here and in Denmark, Germany, Sweden and America.



The shattered window of Brick Lane police station





Beaten-up, falsely imprisoned and ridiculed, this innocent citizen is now facing more discrimination.

And the Government's about to turn a blind eye.

He believes he's been stitched up by the police, but may not be able to do anything about it.

Under the Access to Justice Bill, legal aid won't be available unless he can prove he's almost certain to win his case – even though it's against the State.

So what's the point of having rights, if basic access to justice is denied?

This Bill will hit the poorest and most vulnerable – the very people who need legal aid.

To protect their right to justice, ask your MP to lobby for changes to the Access to Justice Bill now. Before it's too late.

The parents of the late Stephen Lawrence, Doreen & Neville, share these concerns about the impact of the Bill.

THE LAW SOCIETY

Justice for all.

'BBC ra
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Television sitcoms turn back to suburban formula, writes **Carol Midgley**

BBC raises dead to give comedy new life

THE television comedy *One Foot in the Grave* is being raised from the dead to help to overcome the BBC's dearth of successful new situation comedies.

Executives have commissioned the new series of the highly popular show, the first for five years, only weeks after Peter Salmon, the BBC1 controller, announced that the corporation was killing off the "suburban net-curtain comedy".

The apparent U-turn on stated policy and the march back to the middle class milieu are an indication of the pressure that the BBC is under to deliver high-rating sitcoms.

The BBC announced at the Montreux Television Festival yesterday eight new comedies which it hopes will replace its "blue chip" properties such as *Men Behaving Badly* and *Birds of a Feather*, which are not being continued. Two of the new shows — *Other Animals* and *My Hero* — are set in suburbia.

In an internal audit earlier this month, Sir John Birt, the BBC Director-General told executives that he was concerned about the quality of the BBC's new sitcoms and said that repeats of classic series remained more popular than many of their successors. His concerns will be published in the BBC annual report this summer, pointing out that many new comedies have "lacked the impact" of the classic series.

The unusual move of resurrecting a show that had been retired suggests that, despite the new comedies being made this year, executives feel that they need a "banker" which will be a guaranteed hit.

One Foot in the Grave, starring Richard Wilson as Victor Meldrew, regularly attracted audiences of 16 million and repeats of the series have been achieving 10 million viewers.

Paul Jackson, the controller of BBC entertainment, said that the writer David Renwick was devising a new six-part series and that Richard Wilson and Annette Crosbie, who plays his wife, had agreed to star.

Since the last series ended in 1994, Mr Renwick has written only special episodes of the show for occasions such as Christmas. Recent new BBC comedies, such as *Kiss Me Kate*, starring Caroline Quentin, and *Heartbreak Hotel*, have not performed as well as had been hoped.

Mr Salmon has axed *Next of Kin*, a drawing room comedy starring Penelope Keith, and *A Prince Among Men*, featuring Chris Barrie, after they flopped in the ratings.

He said earlier this year: "I am the net-curtain comedy killer, the man who took out a contract on suburban sofas and knitted pullovers and will do for some of the dreary 1950s scenarios that have infected too many comedies."

Despite its often black humour, *One Foot in the Grave* is essentially a middle class comedy set in typical suburbia and centres on disputes with friends and neighbours.

However, Mr Jackson said that the new arrivals, which will start being broadcast from the autumn, would break new ground in comedy.

THE NEW CROP OF SITCOMS

My Hero: stars Ardal O'Hanlon, who played Dougal in Father Ted, as a real life superman. Set in Northolt, northwest London, it centres on his difficulties in keeping real identity secret from neighbours.

Starting Out: a comedy about young romance which is being tipped as the new Birds of a Feather.

Too Much Fun: stars Mark Addy as an apiring British writer in Hollywood.

Hippies: by Graham Linehan and Arthur Matthews, the writers of Father Ted, about two hippies in contemporary London.

Cry Wolf: an Alamo production starring Jemma Redgrave.

Coupling: a relationship comedy starring Jack Davenport and Gina Bellman.

Other Animals: stars Richard Wilson and Stephanie Cole as a couple living in suburbia.

Happiness: stars Paul Whitehouse as a widower who falls in love with his best friend's wife.

Let Them Eat Cake: Jennifer Saunders and Dawn French, set in the French Revolution.



Back from the grave: Richard Wilson as Victor Meldrew, an old favourite returns

Channel 5 boss backs digital TV licence fee

By Raymond Snoddy
Media Editor

DAVID ELSTEIN, the chief executive of Channel 5, has backed an extra digital licence fee for the BBC of about £30 a year.

In a letter to The Times, Mr Elstein, who wants to be the next BBC Director-General, attacks the commercial broadcasters who have rejected a supplementary licence fee on the grounds that it would slow the spread of digital television.

The Independent Television Commission will also oppose a digital licence fee this week when it publishes its evidence to the Davies Panel, which is looking into future BBC financing.

Mr Elstein argues that the commercial broadcasters are prepared to sacrifice the long-term public interest in the welfare of the BBC "for their own short-term economic ends".

Letters, page 21

Youth revolution on schedule

By Carol Midgley

SATURDAY night entertainment on BBC1, for decades the mainstay of safe, family viewing, is to undergo a radical overhaul to attract the younger, cooler viewer.

Executives have decided to virtually rip up the schedule and start again from scratch after scrapping *Noel's House Party*, which they admit had begun to look tired.

They are now working on reinvigorating an increasingly weak area of BBC programming with a host of new presenters, including Irish comedian Patrick Kielty and Radio 1 disc jockey Chris Moyles.

The mission to breathe new life into the schedule is being spearheaded by David Young, the new head of light entertainment at the BBC, who at 30 is the youngest person to be appointed to the post.

One of his first moves was to run an advertisement appealing for young television addicts with no experience in television but plenty of ideas for shows to write to him.

They were told to submit ideas for *Noel's House Party* and *TFI Friday*, Chris Evans's show on Channel 4. Of the hundreds who applied, five have been interviewed and begin work on new programme formats in the next four weeks.

BBC executives have been encouraged by the success of Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer's new game show, *Families At War*, which is a radical departure from traditional family show formats but has still been hugely successful.

However, the veteran family programme *The Generation Game* has been recommissioned and the *National Lottery Show* will remain in its current slot.

At the Montreux Television Festival yesterday Mr Young said: "There is a crisis in light entertainment TV because of a lack of ideas. The same formats and the reliance on the same shows has been going on too long.

"You could have 20 years' experience on TV and still not have an idea. Traditionally Saturday evenings have not been seen as a cool area of television."

BALKANS WAR: AIR CAMPAIGN

Britain sends more Harriers

Nato to step up its forces, write **Michael Evans** and **Ian Brodie** in Washington

BRITAIN is expected to increase its military commitment to the Kosovo operation with a third 2,000-man armoured battle group, another squadron of eight Harrier GR7s and an extra frigate.

Following the decision by Nato leaders at the 50th anniversary summit in Washington to put even more effort into defeating President Milosevic by bombing alone — leaving the ground troops option in the hands of the contingency planners — General Wesley Clark, the Supreme Allied Commander, has asked for 400 more aircraft, bringing the total to about 1,400 planes.

Britain indicated that it was ready to increase its aircraft involved in Operation Allied Force from its present commitment of 12 Harrier GR7s at Gioia del Colle in Italy and eight Tornado GR1s at Bruggen in Germany. There is another squadron of Tornados at Brüggen, but the remaining squadron of Harriers at RAF Wittering in Cambridgeshire seems more likely to be sent, defence sources said.

Bulgaria, Romania and Slovenia have agreed to allow their airspace to be used for Nato attacks. Hungary, one of the new Nato members, is also ready to hand over its main air bases for attacks on Kosovo.

With the airspace over the Adriatic already clogged with attack sorties, the opening up of Hungarian bases will make it easier for Nato to intensify the bombing campaign.

Serbian state television was knocked off the air for the second time in three days by Nato airstrikes yesterday, but resumed some broadcasting within 11 hours. A generator was hit, cutting off power to Yugoslavia's biggest television mast outside Belgrade, according to Tanjug, the official Yugoslav news agency.

Nato set off a row when it attacked the state television studios in Belgrade last Friday, killing ten people. Lamberto Dini, Italy's Foreign Minister, said it was not a legitimate target. The only Russian Orthodox church in Belgrade, Holy Trinity, was also damaged, the *Moscow Times* reported. Although the issue of ground troops has been pushed into the background during the Nato summit which ended yesterday, General Clark is understood to have warned the alliance leaders that ground troops would still be needed to complete the job.

Peter Riddell, page 20
Letters, page 21

RICCARDO DALLE LUCHE / AP



Game plan: an American soldier plays with a child after his Apache helicopter made an emergency landing south of Florence at the weekend

Extra paratroopers reinforce Apache base

A SECOND wave of seven Apache attack helicopters arrived in Albania yesterday, and an additional 2,000 paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division were ordered to the same air base at Rinas, 20 miles from the capital, Tirana. Their arrival will bring the total number of combat troops there to nearly 6,000.

A first contingent of helicopters — half the initial deployment of 24 — arrived last Wednesday.

Richard Owen in Tirana sees helicopter practice runs in mountains

The anti-tank Apaches arrived during a visit to the base by General Wesley Clark, the Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

The airport, where sheep once grazed on the runway because there were so few flights, is now covered in army tents, radar dishes, armoured personnel carriers and military aircraft. Behind us, Apaches clattered into the air, making practice runs over the nearby mountains to get used to the Balkans terrain.

Captain Mark Arden, 29, from the US Army's 11th Attack Helicopter Regiment, normally based in Germany, revealed that there were women pilots in the Apache force at Tirana. "But we had women pilots in the Gulf War, too," he added. According to one theory gaining ground here, the role of the Apaches will be to clear a corridor some 12-15 miles inside Kosovo from which the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) would operate under Nato protection. This "pocket" could then be cleared of mines to allow the symbolic return of some refugees. US officials deny that the mounting Nato force at Tirana is the nucleus of a land invasion force. "The supporting forces are here to back up the Apaches," said Major Dan Battio, the US army spokesman. There will also be Multiple Rocket Launcher Systems together with an anti-tank company, combat engineers, and additional military intelligence units.

CHRONOLOGY OF WAR

This week

April 26: EU Foreign Ministers meet to strengthen sanctions against Yugoslavia
April 26: British armoured reinforcements arrive in Salonika by ship
April 29: More Kosovo Albanian refugees due to fly to Glasgow

April 25

- Nato planes bomb Serbian state television off the air for the second time in three days, hitting the main transmitter near Belgrade. Yugoslavia's third largest city, Nis, is attacked for the second successive night.
- US and Britain say there is no target date to put ground troops into Kosovo
- First Kosovo refugees arrive in Leeds

April 24

- Nato's 50th anniversary summit in Washington is dominated by Kosovo conflict and plans to board and search ships suspected of delivering oil and arms to Yugoslavia.
- Nato is trying to patch up relations with Russia following a sharp disagreement over the alliance's plans to block oil supplies to Yugoslavia

April 23



- Russia's Balkan envoy Viktor Chernomyrdin reported as saying Milosevic agrees to the deployment of foreign troops in Kosovo, but Yugoslavia later says it has discussed only a possible unarmed UN presence.
- Nato destroys a Serbian state television building in central Belgrade, killing at least 10 people.
- Tony Blair, speaking in Chicago, appealed directly to Americans to stay engaged with Europe over Kosovo and outlined his vision for dealing with undemocratic leaders intent on destroying any hope of a new world order

April 22



- Nato blows up Milosevic"s Belgrade residence.
- Tom Walker the Times correspondent, in Yugoslavia was expelled from the country

April 21



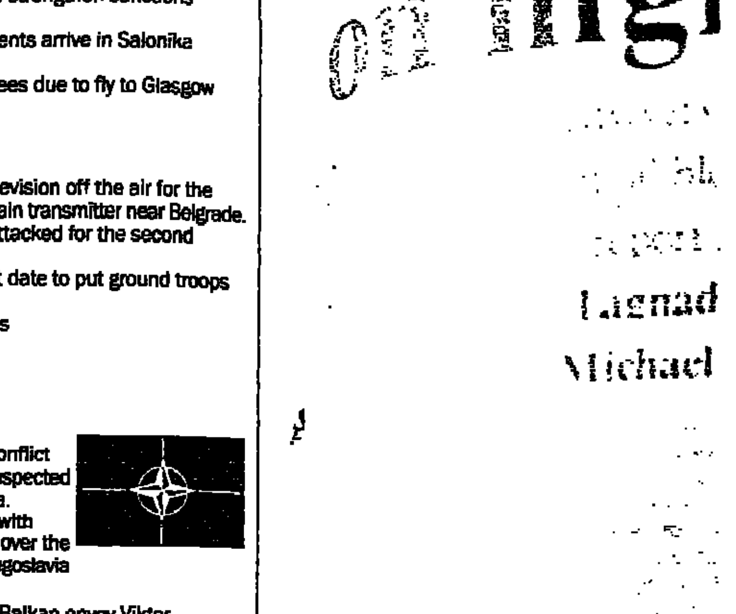
- Nato missile blasts headquarters of Milosevic's Serbian Socialist Party in Belgrade
- US Apache attack helicopters arrive in Albania
- Yugoslavia says 10 people killed by Nato missiles at a camp in Kosovo holding Serb refugees from Croatia

April 20

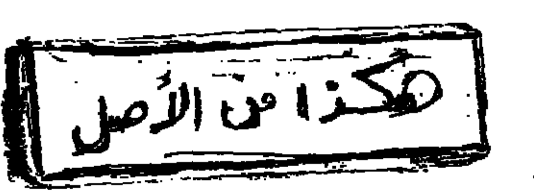
- Yugoslav and Albanian troops exchange fire at border.
- A huge column of Kosovo refugees is reported by aid workers to have gone missing on the way to Albania

April 18

- Nato says 850,000 uprooted ethnic Albanians are being driven from homes and attacked by Yugoslav forces in Kosovo; US says 100,000, possibly as many as 500,000, Kosovo men are unaccounted for.
- Clinton says conflict may cost US $6bn



هكذا من الأصل



Russian ships face searches on high seas

Lawyers advise on oil blockade, report Alice Lagnado and Michael Evans

NATO'S proposed oil embargo on Yugoslavia and "blockade" of the Montenegrin port of Bar in the Adriatic will be enforced according to international law, Tony Blair's official spokesman promised yesterday.

Despite the pledge, Nato's decision to push for military action to stop oil tankers entering Bar, helping to fuel President Milosevic's tanks and armoured vehicles in Kosovo, will have to be pored over by lawyers.

One of the key areas, Nato officials said, would be the rules of engagement given to all warship commanding officers to make it clear what action they can take in deterring, intercepting or boarding tankers suspected of carrying oil for Yugoslavia. President Chirac of France gave a strong warning on Saturday that intercepting a ship on the high seas "is an act of war in international law".

The Prime Minister's spokesman, however, insisted that it was the French idea to have an oil embargo and that Paris was fully supportive. "Anything we do will be done in accordance with international law," he said.

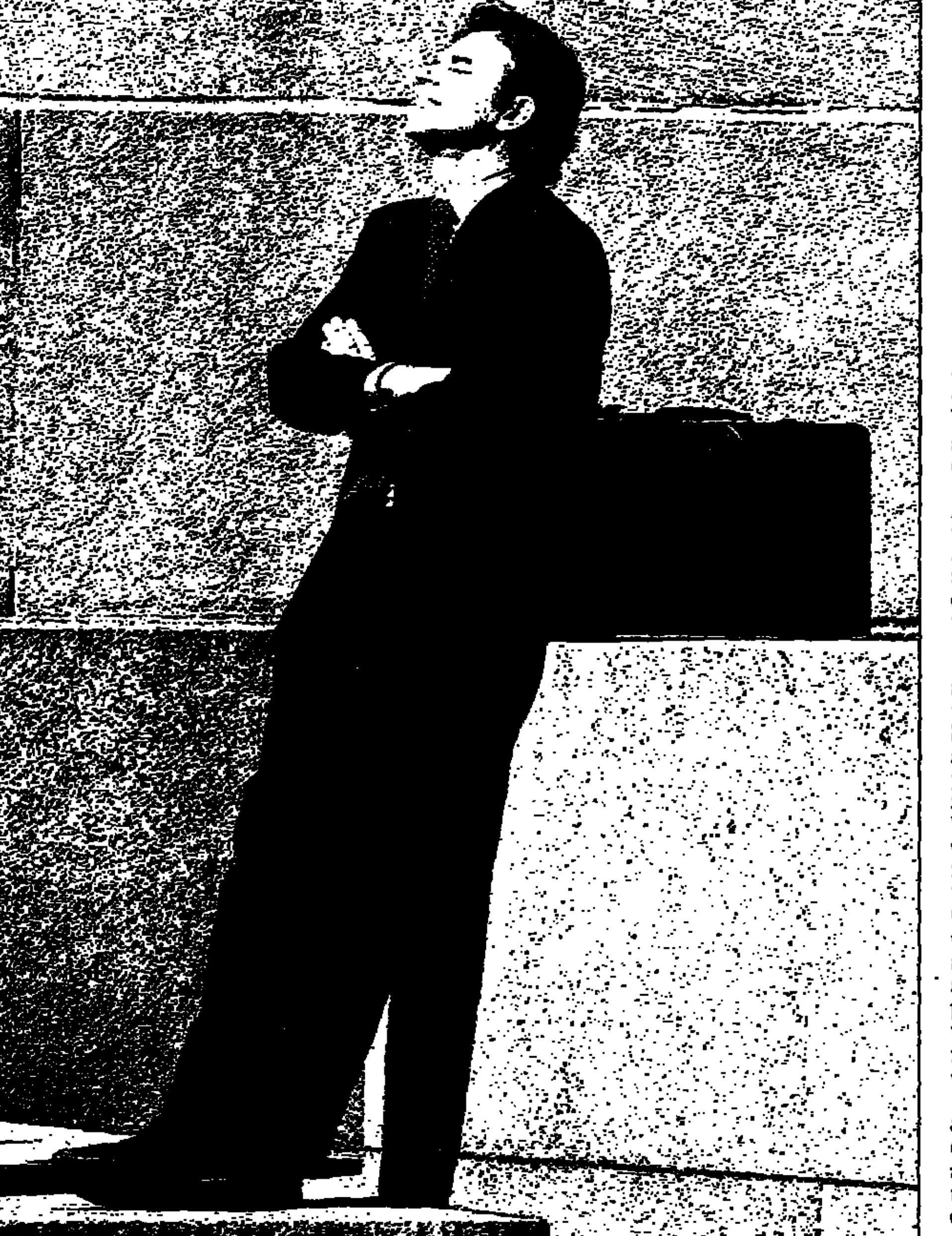
Senior British defence sources at the Nato summit said that although it was intended to operate a blockade, there were also plans to bomb the roads running through the mountains from Bar to ensure that those supplies that managed to get through would be prevented from reaching Serbia.

This would reverse Nato's pledge to avoid bombing infrastructure targets in Montenegro because of the need to support President Djukanovic in his stand against Mr Milosevic. The Montenegrin leader has been assured by Nato that he will still be able to receive his country's normal oil shipments. In return, Mr Djukanovic has agreed to allow Nato warships to control all tanker movements into Bar. The bombing of roads in Montenegro could, however, strain Nato's relationship with Mr Djukanovic.

Nato already has sufficient warships in the Adriatic to implement a blockade, once the legal arguments have been resolved. The United States has four cruisers and five destroyers, as well as the aircraft carrier, *Theodore Roosevelt*, and three submarines. The Royal Navy has the carrier, *HMS Invincible*, the submarine, *HMS Splendid*, and two frigates, *HMS Grafton* and *HMS Iron Duke*. Royal Marine commandos on board the two frigates would play a significant role in the proposed "visit and search" missions against suspect tankers.

The major question being asked at the summit yesterday was how Nato would react if faced by a Russian oil tanker bound for Bar. At the weekend the Kremlin made it clear that it would not respect a Nato-led oil embargo. "We cannot do anything to worsen the suffering of the people in Yugoslavia, and we will continue delivering oil in keeping with our international commitments," Igor Ivanov, Russia's Foreign Minister, said.

American officials made it clear that the naval blockade would cover all countries, including Russia. They added that the operation could be in force soon.


SUSAN WALSH/AP

Tony Blair taking a break in the Washington sunshine during the Nato summit

Kosovo tests Nato's world enforcer role

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

NATO'S ambitious blueprint for military intervention beyond the alliance's borders has been unveiled while that strategy is being put the test dramatically in Kosovo.

The outward-looking philosophy underpins Nato's interventionist determination, but has also exposed fresh divisions within the alliance while emphasising that its very future is at stake in the Balkans.

"We have reaffirmed our readiness to address regional and ethnic conflicts beyond the territory of Nato members," President Clinton said as the "Strategic Concept" was presented during the alliance's 50th anniversary summit in Washington. The concept provides Nato with "a road map" for military crises, according to Javier Solana, its Secretary-General — transforming a mutual defence agreement into a regional policeman willing and able to use its collective power to intervene when faced with ethnic conflagration, terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

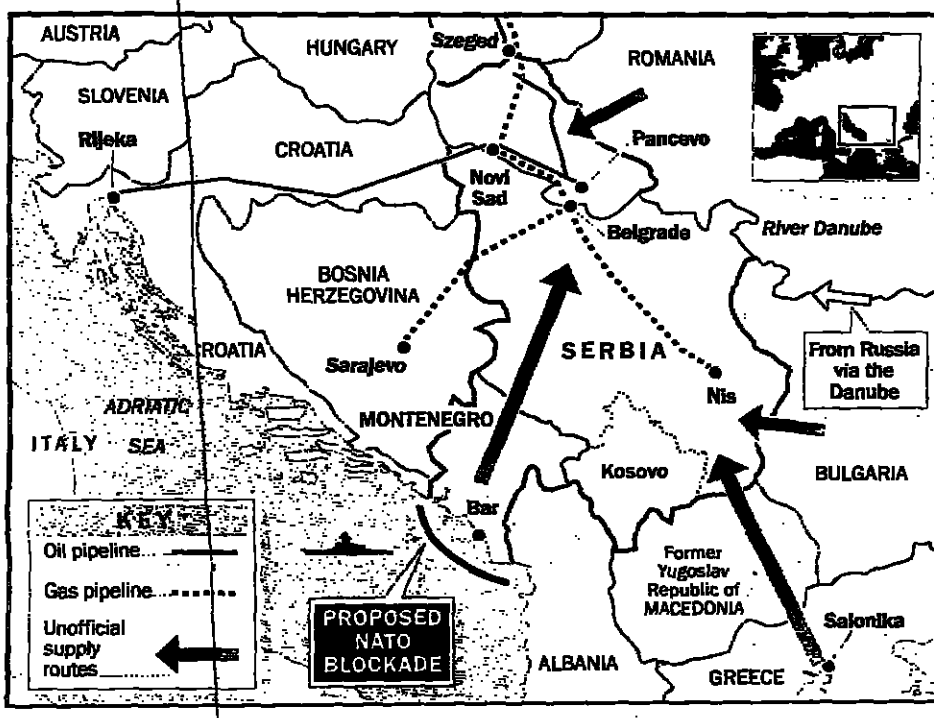
Nato recognised the European Union's expanding role in defence policy and its right to approve military action where not all Nato members were concerned.

The redefining of Nato's role will equip it to "deal with the security challenges of the new century", Mr Clinton said. The timing could hardly be more sensitive: when planners began addressing the question five years ago they little expected it would face such an immediate, defining and potentially damaging test.

If Nato's Kosovo policy fails, then the strategic concept will have been shown to be a failure before it was born. "The stakes for Nato are Nato," one senior US policymaker said.

Differences within the alliance have been reflected in the blueprint's drafting, most notably over the UN's role. President Chirac of France said a passage recognising the UN's "primary responsibility" for maintaining international peace and security made it clear that Nato could not, and would not, act without UN authorisation — an interpretation contradicted by Señor Solana, who said a Security Council resolution would not be necessary before making an intervention outside Nato territory.

Members also agreed to expand intelligence-sharing, find ways to defend members against nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and head off a growing gap in military technology between America and the other 18 allies.



Oil embargo 'illegal'

BY MICHAEL BINYON DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

A NATO blockade of Yugoslav ports and the forcible inspection of approaching oil tankers would be a breach of international law, legal experts said yesterday.

Stopping neutral ships on the high seas could be justified only if sanctioned by the United Nations or as a clear act of self-defence, one expert said. "It would require a new declaration."

Nato might argue that the action was justified under an extension of the doctrine of self-defence. But a unilateral declaration to that effect might not win international acceptance. To stop and board ships otherwise would be seen as aggression against the flag under which they were sailing.

The Government could try to argue that Security Council Resolution 1160, which last month imposed an arms embargo on Yugoslavia, included wording that prohibited ships from carrying arms and related materiel — and this could be stretched to include oil. But that resolution still does not authorise the use of force.

After the invasion of Kuwait, Britain and America imposed a naval blockade on Iraq. But Washington insisted on a different form of words so as not to force the invocation of the American War Powers Act. Its action, called a "naval interdiction", was subsequently upheld by the UN.

Yugoslavia receives only a fraction of its oil by sea. Until the airstrikes began, most of the 54,000 barrels it imported each day came from Russia (12,000 barrels), Ukraine, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania and the European Union. Most unrefined oil was imported through two main pipelines, from Croatia and Hungary. These have been closed.

Oil, especially from Russia, also came by barge up the Danube. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday that this was a main reason for blocking the river by bringing down the bridges. Yugoslavia produces a further 18,000 barrels a day of its own oil.

Only small quantities of refined oil come to Bar, on the Montenegrin coast, and have to be taken inland by lorry.

Writers confronted by the ethical dilemma

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

INTELLECTUALS, like generals, talk about present wars in the idiom of the past. George Orwell recalled in *Inside the Whale* (1940) that what was truly frightening about the war in Spain was "the immediate reappearance in left-wing circles of the mental atmosphere of the Great War".

When the poet Vernon Scannell was wounded in the Second World War his emotional memory was:

"Not the war I fought in
But the one called Great
Which ended in a sepia
November
Four years before my
birth."

Similar patterns emerge in the attitudes of writers to the Yugoslav war. Some see it as a reprise of the Spanish Civil War. The parallels are not precise since the bombing is being conducted not by the Condor legions on behalf of Franco but by Nato against a fascistic Balkan dictator.

Even so, I like to imagine a Spanish-style International Brigade made up of Martin Amis, Julian Barnes, Günter Grass and Frederick Forsyth joining the Kosovo Liberation Army on the battlefield.

Others see the Kosovo war as Vietnam — as intended to impose an American order on a faraway place popularised by victims. That is how Peter Handke seems to view it, and he, the best contemporary German-speaking playwright, has been to Belgrade to show his solidarity with the Serbs. At the weekend he was said to be going to Pristina, presumably to show solidarity with Arkan. Handke — Austrian but claimed by the Germans until he made clear his pro-Serb sentiments — steps in the tradition of slightly crazed prophets — from D'Annunzio to Pound.

The backlash has been such — Susan Sontag says Handke is "finished in New York" — that his publishers have had to remind the literary world that writers are entitled to different views. Handke is pretty much alone, although some scepticism about Nato has been filtering through from the salons.

On the whole it is a case of Brains for Bombs. Grass, as Germany's best-known novelist, regards himself as its voice of conscience; he favours not only airstrikes but ground troops. His heroes are often shrewd spectators of war. So when the author talks of the lessons of Auschwitz, he shapes the debate.

Only seven years ago German behaviour in the Second World War was seen as a reason for restraint. Now it is seen as a reason for military risk-taking.



BALKANS WAR: HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

UN urges Britain to take more refugees

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

BRITAIN was under pressure last night to take more Kosovan refugees after a row erupted over the small number to arrive since bombing started.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) called on the Government to accept thousands like other European states.

As the first plane, carrying 161 refugees, arrived in Yorkshire, Lyndall Sachs, a spokeswoman for the UNHCR, urged the Government to allow more in.

She said: "At present we have 35 countries who have offered about 100,000 places, and countries such as Germany have just doubled their intake. Originally they were taking 10,000. They have already doubled that to 20,000. Britain needs to assist in burden-sharing from the area."

Unless more refugees were flown out of Macedonia, the Balkan state might take drastic action and push them across the borders, she said.

The assault on the Government's position was reinforced by Olaru Ottunnu, the personal representative of Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, who also called on Britain to take more refugees.

Referring to the refugees' arrival yesterday, Mr Ottunnu told ITV's *Dimbleby* programme: "I'm very pleased by this gesture. More is needed, both on the part of Britain and other Western countries. And they must also, more significantly, provide more support for the host families in Albania and Macedonia."

But Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, said the Government's duty was to look after people in the region and get them back to their homes. It was right to accept only those with special medical needs or who had relatives in Britain, she said.

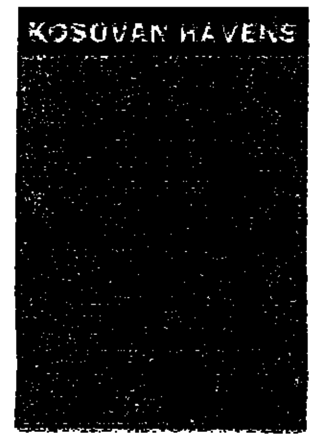
"Of course we should help, especially needy cases. But flying people to Europe will not deal with the refugee problem. And our real duty is to defeat this evil, to look after people in the region and get them back home as soon as possible."

The £20,000 cost of flying the refugees from Skopje to Britain was met by her department.

They are to be permitted to stay in Britain for 12 months and will be able to apply for asylum. Unlike other refugees who are banned from working for their first six months in Britain, they are to be allowed to work immediately.

They will be eligible for all social benefits including income support, housing and council tax benefit, job seekers allowance and health service treatment.

A single person between 18 and 24 receives £40.70 a week in income support; a couple with dependent children over 18 gets £80.65. A family on income support also gets £20.20 a week for each child under 11, and £25 for those under 16.



PAWEL KOPCZYNSKI / REUTERS



A Kosovan boy gazes from a bus window before leaving a refugee camp in Macedonia for Britain yesterday

Kosovan children discover land of hope

Continued from page 1

a British Refugee Council worker who had travelled with them. "They are all highly relieved to be here, and grateful, but the one question they are all asking is: 'When can we go home?'." It needed just five baggage trollies to carry their posessions from the aircraft hold. Many had just plastic bags to hold all the things they now own in the world.

First aboard the Bulgarian airliner on landing was Catheryn James, a senior West Yorkshire ambulance official who job was to check for anyone in need of immediate medical aid. "There was one woman who complained of being unwell, but no-one needed hospital attention.

Inside the terminal they were put through what the Home Office described as "the fastest immigration control on record". The refugees were then taken to one of two residental centres in the city.

They have all been granted visas to stay for up to a year and will be eligible to work or claim social security benefits immediately.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Tory demand for conflict inquiry

A commission of inquiry into the origins and conduct of Nato's offensive against Belgrade should be set up after the fighting ends, the Conservative Party proposed yesterday (Philip Webster writes). Michael Howard, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, said that the kind of far-reaching investigation that followed the Falklands war should be established to look into the "failure of diplomacy" that preceded the conflict, and some of the decisions taken during it.

Mr Howard and William Hague yesterday maintained Opposition support for Nato's stance, including the possibility of using ground forces, but Mr Howard called for more clarity from the Government on issues such as the legal basis for a blockade against Serbia.

Srpska arson attack

Banja Luka: The official car of Rajko Vasic, the Bosnian Serb Information Minister, was destroyed by an arson attack overnight. Mr Vasic is a member of the Government of Republika Srpska — the Serb-run part of Bosnia — which is being targeted by ultra-nationalists who resent its co-operation with the West while Nato is carrying out air raids against Serbs in Yugoslavia. *(AFP)*

Children vaccinated

Skopje: Unicef was today due to start vaccinating Kosovo children living in Macedonia's overcrowded refugee camps, beginning at the main Stankovic camp near here. About 9,000 under-fives will be immunised against polio, tuberculosis, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, measles, mumps and rubella. Vaccinations for those with host families, and Macedonian children, will follow. *(Reuters)*

Ghetto leader's support

Warsaw: The only surviving leader of the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto uprising has urged Nato to defeat President Milosevic, likening the Serb campaign in Kosovo to the Holocaust. "Milosevic will not give up," Marek Edelman said at a meeting of the Freedom Union party. "Without eliminating Yugoslavia as a system, there will be no peace in the Balkans." He also said ground troops were essential. *(AP)*

Media boss in hiding

Podgorica: Montenegro's most prominent independent media figure says he is going into hiding to escape capture and possible torture by the Yugoslav Army. An arrest warrant has been issued for Miodrag Perovic founder of Montenegro's Antenna M radio station and the weekly magazine *Monitor*, in a sharp intensification of the military's battle against local news organisations. *(Reuters)*

Left bolsters Jospin

Paris: Robert Hue, the Communist leader, rowed back on veiled threats to quit the ruling coalition if France participated in any Nato ground offensive in Kosovo. "If we quit the Government, there's no longer a united coalition on the Left and [Prime Minister] Lionel Jospin would have to go. I don't want to do the Right that favour," he said. M Hue opposes President Milosevic but wants a return to diplomacy.



Union of 1.5 billion people in 54 states

☐ The Commonwealth evolved from theformer colonies of the British Empire. Unlike the United Nations, it was not built around a charter. The modern Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 54 nations.

☐ It includes a third of the world's states and 1.5 billion people, a quarter of the world's population. India has the most people and Canada is the biggest country.

☐ The Queen is head of the Commonwealth's 16 parliamentary democracies. Every state accepts her as head of the Commonwealth.

☐ It has no constitution, but the governments of its members work on the basis of understood procedures. They aim to collaborate to influence world events. In 1965, the Commonwealth Secretariat was set up in London to offer members a way of communicating through a neutral intermediary. The Commonwealth heads of government meet every second year.

☐ South Africa withdrew in 1961 but rejoined in 1994. Pakistan left in 1972 but returned in 1989. Fiji left after a coup in 1987 and rejoined in 1997.

DAVID JONES



The Queen should stay, the report says, but a Commonwealth presidency should supplement her role

Queen sidelined as empire hits back

A new Labour think-tank wants to replace next monarch with a president, reports Michael Binyon

THE Commonwealth Secretariat should be relocated from London to Cape Town or Delhi and the Prince of Wales should be replaced by an elected Commonwealth president when the Queen's reign ends, according to a Government-sponsored think-tank.

A report, published today on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the modern Commonwealth's founding, also calls for a permanent "enforcer" to investigate breaches of human rights and a decision-making body of Commonwealth High Commissioners to resolve crises.

The report is published by the Foreign Policy Centre, headed by Mark Leonard, a young new Labour activist who advised the Government on "rebranding Britain" and drew up a pamphlet on modernising the monarchy. The policy centre is a think-tank created to shake-up the Foreign Office.

It says that in the past 50 years the Commonwealth's idealism has evaporated. Most of its 1.6 billion people know next to nothing about it, and few can name the Secretary-General (Chief Emeka Anyaoku).

A poll of young people found that 43 per cent had no idea what the Commonwealth meant, even though the Secretariat claims that two-thirds of British primary schoolchildren have a relative in one member country.

The report says that the Commonwealth has a "British problem". The end of empire was so quiet and dignified that Britain did not develop new, equal relationships with the states it once ruled, and could not find a balance between seeking control and disengaging. Institutions and activities remain highly "London-centric". It adds: "This can only be tackled by a clear break with the past. The secretariat must move out of Britain to a new, permanent and purpose-built home. There should be a range of potential candidates — Canada, South Africa, India, New Zealand. The price is worth paying for an effective Commonwealth no longer trapped by its past."

On the controversial question of changing the Queen's role as head of the Commonwealth, it says she is undoubtedly popular in many Commonwealth countries, and there is no support for removing her. But she should be supplemented by a Commonwealth presidency, with a head of government elected for a two-year term, like the system used in the European Union. He or she would speak out on international issues. But after her reign, the monarch's position should be reconsidered, according to the report. It suggests that the Prince of Wales is far less interested and should not be asked to take over the reins.

Among other measures to revitalise the 54-nation organisation, the report calls for a new declaration on democracy and human rights; a heavyweight political figure to examine abuses; and a standing council of top ambassadors (known as high commissioners) to refer problems to the Commonwealth Ministers Action Group. It also suggests better auditing and targeting of public money on democracy and economic development issues.

"The Commonwealth appears for a few days every two years when its heads of government meet, and then disappears. Unless it develops a permanent presence that allows it to respond to crises, it will never be relevant," the report says.

The authors, Kate Ford and Sunder Katwala, will spend the next six months — until the Commonwealth summit in Durban — developing their arguments. The main thrust of the report is expected to be supported by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary and president of the Foreign Policy Centre.

Before coming to power, Labour promised to revive the Commonwealth and review relations with former colonies. But the ideas may receive a frostier welcome in the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The report concludes: "Reinventing Britishness and reinventing the Commonwealth are two sides of the same coin."



LINKS

www.tcol.co.uk — The Commonwealth online
www.thecommonwealth.org — The Commonwealth Secretariat
www.commonwealth.org.uk — The Commonwealth Institute

Cornwall told its ancient sites will stay 'English'

BY MICHAEL HARVEY

THE chairman of English Heritage has issued a "stern warning" to Cornish nationalists threatening guerrilla tactics to win control of the county's cultural sites.

Sir Jocelyn Stevens has rejected a demand from the 700-year-old Cornish Stannary Parliament that "English Heritage" signs be removed by July 31 — or they will do it themselves. They want a Cornish organisation to take charge.

In a letter to the parliament members, Sir Jocelyn says: "Whatever your feelings about the name English Heritage, it is this organisation that has ensured the survival of these historic monuments as features of Cornwall's landscape today ... English Heritage cannot condone acts of vandalism against the monuments in its care and will vigorously pursue those responsible for any criminal damage."

The signs are the latest battleground for the increasingly militant Cornish nationalist movement.

Rodney Nute, Keeper of the Seal or chief administrator, of the parliament, says: "These sites are of pre-English, pre-Roman and many are of pre-Celtic origin. Generations of indigenous Cornish nationals have been deeply offended by the unsolicited intrusion and imposition of organisations such as English Heritage.

Andrew George, Liberal Democrat MP for St Ives, said: "The Stannary Parliament is technically correct about the English Heritage sites. But there are ways of achieving change without absurd guerrilla tactics."

Three wounded in pub shooting

THREE Manchester United fans were shot yesterday when a masked gunman opened fire in a crowded pub in Salford.

A 32-year-old man was shot five times in the chest and back while two others were superficially wounded.

A spokesman for Greater Manchester Police said: "Detectives believe that the victim who was shot five times was the intended target and that the other two were hit by bullets which ricocheted during the incident."

Witnesses at the Ship Inn said the 32-year-old was watching yesterday's Premiership match against Leeds on television with his mother when a lone gunman walked in and began shooting.

The main victim was in a serious condition last night in Hope Hospital.

Law reform: Civil courts revolution ● Legal aid row

Lawyers pay for delaying tactics

LAWYERS who indulge in "trial by combat" and try to drag out litigation face swingeing financial penalties from today.

Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, has given warning that in the new "landscape for civil justice", anyone who acts unreasonably and refuses a settlement offer can be forced to pay damages with punitive rates of interest on top.

Judges will take control of the pace of litigation, setting tight deadlines. They also have wide powers to encourage settlement of disputes before trial.

Lord Woolf, author of the 1996 report that is the basis of today's reforms, said: "The main object is to change the culture of our litigation scene. We want to get away from a system which is exceptionally adversarial, a big fight using up unnecessary resources, and which really is a turn-off for ordinary members of the public the system should be serving."

The shake-up makes it easier and cheaper for people to bring to court and defend a wide range of civil claims, from unpaid debts and breach of contract to personal injury actions and insurance claims. At the same time, the slow, costly system of litigation that has dominated civil justice for the past century is replaced with a judge-driven system in which lawyers will be punished and ordered to pay costs if they delay or act unreasonably.

There are built-in incentives to settle before trial and to use other methods of resolving disputes, such as mediation or arbitration. Lord Woolf said: "The courts will have the responsibility, which they have never had before, of encouraging people to settle disputes without going to court."

Under the new framework there are three tracks for disputes. Claims of up to £5,000 can be heard in the small claims court, claims of up to £15,000 in a new fast-track court where trial costs are capped, and big, complex cases on a multi-track in the High Court.

Lord Woolf said that people would be clearer about the cost of going to law. "What the ordinary person wants to know is how long it is going to take and how much it is going to cost."

Defendants would no longer be able to indulge in stalling tactics or conduct a war of attrition to wear down claimaints and exhaust their resources.

From the new armoury of judges' powers he singled out the "offer to settle": if a claimant makes an offer that is rejected by the defendant, and the offer is later matched at trial, the defendant can be ordered to pay interest at 10 per cent above base rate — say 17 per cent — on the sums due, as well as full costs, again with the same punitive interest rates.

Claimaints also have to make a declaration as to the truth of their claims. If a claim later turns out to be false or ill-founded, costs penalties will be imposed. "Until now you could put forward anything to raise a smokescreen and avoid liability," Lord Woolf said. "Now people will have to mean what they say."

Some lawyers fear the changes will increase costs in the early stages of litigation, but most believe the reforms are well overdue. John Hull, a litigation partner with Richards Butler, said: "Some lawyers are worried and fear a bumpy ride ahead. No one likes change. But the customer is looking forward to it: they see they will get more for their money."

He added: "If lawyers think they can receive a claim form then sit back and do nothing until the next letter arrives, they are in for a shock. Everything will now happen at high speed and it will mean a big change in how we manage our cases."

Leading article and Letters, page 21
Law, page 41

PRINCIPAL CHANGES

- ☐ Trials to be last resort, with financial incentives for litigants to settle instead
- ☐ Three trial tracks: small claims court up to £5,000, fast track up to £15,000 and multi-track for bigger, complex cases
- ☐ Judges receive powers to dismiss weak claims and to impose costs penalties for delay
- ☐ Claimaints' settlement offer with punitive interest to be paid by defendants who refuse offers later matched at trial
- ☐ Computers for courts and judges (delayed until next year)


ROY RILEY

Lord Woolf: "What people want to know is how long it is going to take and how much it is going to cost"

Irvine clashes with Law Society

By Frances Gibb
Legal Correspondent

A CONTROVERSY has erupted between the Lord Chancellor and the Law Society over an advertising campaign launched by the society this week against cuts in legal aid.

Lord Irvine of Lairg issued a statement today deploring society advertisements to be run this week in newspapers as "irresponsible scaremongering". In effect accusing the society of lying and misrepresentation, he goes on: "Many vulnerable people will be made to believe that they will lose their access to legal aid. That is just not true."

Lord Irvine is said to have been furious when advertisement proofs were shown to his department on Friday. He accuses solicitors of being motivated by worry over their incomes, saying "the Government cannot be expected to protect every solicitor from change".

Advertisements [such as the one on page 6 of today's Times] have been drawn up as part of the Law Society's campaign against proposals to reform the £1.6 billion legal aid scheme contained in the Access to Justice Bill.

It will remove legal aid for most personal injury claims. Lawyers are expected to take such cases on a "no win, no fee" basis, with insurance firms providing cover.

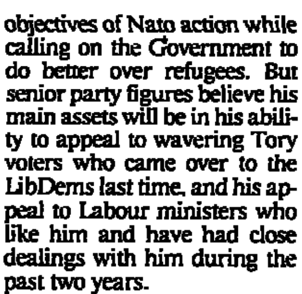
LibDem hopefuls step aside in bid to block Kennedy

By Philip Webster and James Landale

LEADING Liberal Democrats are preparing to step aside to allow Menzies Campbell to become the main "stop Charles Kennedy" candidate in the party's leadership race.

Mr Campbell, the Liberal Democrat foreign affairs spokesman whose profile is rising through regular appearances to comment on Nato's action against Belgrade, is expected to emerge as the figure most committed to carrying on Paddy Ashdown's policy of close relations with Labour.


Campbell: seen to be having "a good war"



Nick Harvey, the Liberal Democrat communications chief and one of the contenders to succeed Mr Ashdown, has indicated that he will pull out to support Mr Campbell. And over the weekend, senior Liberal Democrats were putting pressure on Don Foster, the education spokesman, to do the same to give Mr Campbell what one strategist described as a "sporting chance" of defeating Mr Kennedy, thought among party activists to be the front-runner.

Mr Campbell, who was thought unlikely to enter the contest in the days after Mr Ashdown's surprise resignation announcement in January, is now strongly expected to throw his hat into the ring. He is perceived by Liberal Democrat MPs to have had a "good war", supporting the objectives of Nato action while calling on the Government to do better over refugees. But senior party figures believe his main assets will be in his ability to appeal to wavering Tory voters who came over to the LibDems last time, and his appeal to Labour ministers who like him and have had close dealings with him during the past two years.

At 57, he would be in an ideal position to "bring on" younger MPs such as Mr Harvey after a few years in charge.

Mr Kennedy, one of the party's few MPs with star quality because of his high media profile, quickly became favourite to replace Mr Ashdown. He is portrayed as less keen on dealings with Labour, although Tony Blair is known to be relaxed about his succeeding Mr Ashdown.

Last week Mr Harvey said that he was issuing a "call to arms" to colleagues to sit down together and decide who really had the best chance of winning. The election was not an "ego trip", he said, and added: "It is not an absolute necessity for me to be a candidate."

Asked if he would back Mr Campbell, Mr Harvey replied that they "looked at things in a similar way" and would support candidates who took the party in a similar direction.

Mr Campbell told *The Times*: "I intend to make my final decision after the elections on May 6. But obviously a development of this kind and the position which Nick Harvey is adopting will play a substantial part in my decision. I think we view the direction the party should take in very similar terms."

The growing awareness among "project anti-Kennedy contenders" that only one can stand has yet to be mirrored by the more radical group of potential candidates. They include party spokesmen Jackie Ballard (local government), Simon Hughes (health), and David Rendel (social security).

The election campaign will begin formally on June 11 and end in mid-July. The result will be given in early August.

EU warning on 'separatism'

The European commissioner for regional policy has warned against the dangers of nationalism. Asked about the SNP's policy of independence within Europe, Monika Wulf-Mathies cited the Yugoslav war as an example of what could go wrong when small states were created. "I don't think this kind of separatist approach would be a very European one."

Chernobyl call by Green Party

The Scottish Green Party is commemorating the 13th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster by calling for nuclear power to be replaced with renewable energy sources. The party's principal speaker, Marian Coyne, said hill-farmers were still coping with the consequences of the accident.



QUOTE of the day

"It's a silly and self-contradictory report from the daft end of the political spectrum"

SNP response to study showing independence could cost £10bn.

today's AGENDA

Sean Connery addresses the SNP rally in Edinburgh; David McLetchie, the Tory leader, visits Shetland; Malcolm Bruce, Liberal Democrat treasury spokesman, scrutinises Labour's spending pledges; Donald Dewar in Kilmarnock and Ayr.

Connery rallies Scots

By Gillian Harris
Scotland Correspondent

SEAN CONNERY will make an impassioned plea for Scots to embrace independence at a rally today aimed at revitalising the Scottish National Party's election campaign.

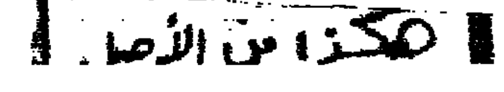
In his first political speech, the former "James Bond" will urge an invited audience of 300 to fight to ensure that the SNP secures victory in the Holyrood elections.

With 12 days to go before polling day, it is hoped that Connery, who is the SNP's most famous supporter, will galvanise activists who have been crushed by opinion polls showing that Labour has gained a 20-point lead.

The SNP promise that his speech, to which he put the finishing touches yesterday, will be "confident and inspiring". The actor was offered help in composing his address by the party leader, Alex Salmond, and the chief executive, Mike Russell, but said he preferred to use his own words.

The rally, at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre, is being billed as the highlight of the SNP's five-week election campaign. Mr Salmond and the SNP president, Winnie Ewing, will also make speeches. Later, Mr Salmond and Connery, who donates large sums to the SNP, will go on a walkabout in the city.

Preparations for the rally have gone ahead in an upbeat atmosphere despite the party's poll showing. SNP leaders last week decided to take their message over the heads of the media directly to the voters.



Irvine clashes with Law Society

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Cheese makers' threat to quit Britain

Red tape and over-harsh inspection regulations are putting squeeze on small firms, Valerie Elliott reports

SPECIALIST cheese makers are threatening to close their businesses and move abroad unless the Government's "hygiene police" relaxes enforcement of dairy controls.

New swathes of red tape, costly inspection checks and zealous enforcement by officials are threatening the livelihood of the country's 120 small specialist cheese producers.

They believe that the blitz is in response to a spate of E. coli poisonings and part of a plan to ban all unpasteurised milk from dairy products, even at the expense of family firms that have produced only safe food.

This week industry representatives are to meet Michael Wills, the Small Business Minister, to press for the exemption of small cheese makers from regulations and controls that they say are more appropriate for large corporations.

Arthur Cunynghame, the managing director of Paxton and Whitfield, the 200-year-old London cheese shop that supplies the Royal Family, said that ministers were hiding a plan to ban unpasteurised milk behind EU regulations. He said that the 165 pages of proposed new dairy hygiene rules would befuddle a corporate lawyer, let alone a small producer.

Mr Cunynghame, who is also president of the Specialist Cheesemakers Association, argues that all cheese manufacturers are governed by the Food Safety Act 1990, which he says is sufficient regulation.

The plight of the cheese makers has resulted in a new alliance of small producers, including sheep farmers, wine growers and abattoir owners, who also face new controls. They are soon to form an all-party Campaign for Independent Foods to lobby ministers.

Among those leading the group are the Countess of Mar, who produces her own goats' cheese, John Redwood, the Tory Trade and Industry spokesman, Paul Tyler, the Liberal Democrat shadow Leader of the House, and Mark Todd, the Labour MP for South Derbyshire.

Lady Mar, a crossbencher in the Lords said last night that most regulations were intended to cover a factory process in which different people performed various tasks.

"It is in the interests of family firms to produce a clean, wholesome, flavoursome product that is not going to blight their reputation. There is far more personal control than in a factory," she said.

Lady Mar said that if small producers went out of business, village communities would also be affected.

Leon Downey, whose cheesery in West Wales has made the Llangloffan brand for more than 20 years, said that he would not hesitate to move to France if there was any sign that the Government intended to ban unpasteurised milk. He makes more than 15 tonnes of cheese each year, and his best selling brand is an unpasteurised hard variety.

"There are no problems with unpasteurised milk in hard cheese. It is a self-cleansing method of cheese making," Mr Downey said. He said that lactic acid produced by curds and whey destroyed califorms such as E-coli. "Bureaucrats know nothing about cheese making, its principles or methods. They want to pasteurise everything . . . but then people will start to lose their immunity," he said.


Leon Downey says plans to ensure that a cheese from each batch is microbiologically tested would cost him £300 each week

Mr Downey fears that the Government will double the number of checks on his farm. At the moment, the annual Ministry of Agriculture cow shed inspection costs him £94, and two more milk tests £120. He is particularly worried about plans to ensure that a cheese from every batch should be sent for microbiological testing. The £50 tests could cost him as much as £300 a week.

In most recent tests the caliform bacteria count in his cheese was -1. "To pass the test you have to be less than 100," he said. "The total bacterial count must be less than 20,000 — ours was 2,100."

Last night a Ministry of Agriculture spokesman said that the department was still consulting the industry over proposals to increase hygiene checks on raw milk and raw milk products.

The checks, he said, were the alternative to banning raw milk from food products altogether. "We welcome and will listen to the views of the small cheese producers," he said.

☐ Netlinks: cheese information: www.cheese.com
Pictures of cheese: www.zennet.com/cheese/
CheeseNet: www.wgx.com/cheesenet/

Leading article, page 21



Teachers deaf to appeal of 'golden hellos'

By A Correspondent

THE Government's "golden hello" scheme to attract graduates into teaching has failed to halt the recruitment crisis, a head teachers' leader said yesterday.

John Dunford, the general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said that some schools would soon be unable to fill posts in subjects such as foreign languages because too few young people were joining the profession.

More than two thirds of the way through the recruitment year, applications for courses starting in September look set to fall short of last year's level of 14,000. The Education Department's target is 16,800, which it says is "more realistic" than the 19,000 it had aimed for last year. A spokesman said yesterday that it was too early to say whether the target would be met.

Government concern at the low level of applications last year led to the introduction in October of golden hellos worth £5,000 for applicants to train for teaching key subjects, such as maths and science. Mr Dunford said, however, that the number of applications to teach subjects such as French, business, history and English was plummeting.

"What has the Government done about it? First they reduced the targets for secondary recruitment. Then they expressed delight that . . . applications for postgraduate recruitment for maths and science courses have been met as a result of their golden hello scheme. In fact, these figures mask a worsening of the recruitment crisis."

While there has been a 24 per cent increase in students registering for maths courses, a 16 per cent increase for biology, 13 per cent for chemistry and 4 per cent for physics, there has been a 21 per cent drop in registrations for training as French teachers, 26 per cent for business studies, 10 per cent for history, 15 per cent for art, 6 per cent for English and 5 per cent for religious studies.

"The first thing we will see is schools not able to deliver the National Curriculum in foreign languages, because they simply do not have the teachers," Mr Dunford said.

"While you can perhaps convert someone quite quickly into a maths or a science teacher, perhaps bringing someone in from industry, you can't get someone to learn a foreign language that quickly and then learn how to teach it."

David Bennett, head teacher at Sackville School in East Grinstead, West Sussex, told the conference he had been forced to recruit a German teacher from a shortlist of one and "ended up being interviewed by the candidate".

An Education Department spokesman said: "We are determined to tackle recruitment issues, and the Green Paper on teachers' pay is aimed at modernising the profession and will attract more people." The Green Paper proposes performance-based pay rises of up to £40,000 for classroom teachers, but has met considerable opposition from unions.

☐ One set of parents in five depends totally on school meals to provide their children with a balanced diet and three out of five agree that those meals play a vital role, a Gallup survey has found.

Hunt for hit-and-run van driver who killed PC

By Michael Horsnell

A TRAFFIC policeman who was run down and dragged 100 yards by a hit-and-run driver died in hospital yesterday.

PC Jeffrey Tooley, 26, was carrying out a routine speed check on the A259 in Shoreham, West Sussex, on Saturday night when he was struck by the van, apparently deliberately. He sustained head injuries in the incident, involving a white Renault Trafic van, and died 12 hours later.

The fire brigade was later called to a burning vehicle at a farm near Brighton and police were investigating to establish whether it was the van involved. It was later taken away for forensic tests.

"All his colleagues are extremely saddened and devastated by his loss", said Assistant Chief Constable Tony Lake. "We have opened an incident room and are treating this as a major crime.

"PC Tooley was a highly regarded officer and he died doing a routine job, a speed check that hundreds of officers do every day. His death is very, very sad for the force and for Sussex as a whole."

Detective Superintendent Alan Ladley, who is leading the murder inquiry, said: "He was knocked down by a van that failed to stop. He suffered serious head injuries and despite being taken to Worthing Hospital died shortly before noon.

"We desperately need to trace this vehicle. It was a white Renault Trafic which witnesses have described as having distinctive stripes down the side, possibly green in colour."

He added: "Most of all I appeal to the driver of the van to come forward and talk to us about what happened."

PC Tooley was wearing a reflective jacket and carrying a torch in a well-lit area just before midnight on Saturday when the incident occurred. He was with a fellow officer carrying out routine speed checks when the van swerved into the centre of the road and hit him.

"We are concerned this might have been a deliberate act which is why we are treating it as a murder inquiry at the moment", Mr Ladley added.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Patient, 83, dies after trolley fall

A great-grandmother has died four months after falling from a hospital trolley. Ellen Cox, 83, needed brain surgery and 30 stitches to her head after the incident at the Royal Liverpool Hospital. Her family's solicitor said yesterday her death was accelerated by the fall.

Mrs Cox had collapsed at home when the hospital was struggling with a flu outbreak. She was left on the trolley for five hours until her fall and for eight hours after her cuts were stitched. An inquiry is being held by the hospital. Its compensation offer has been refused by the family.

Cromwell birth celebrated

Thousands of people marked the 400th anniversary of Oliver Cromwell's birth with a church service and Civil War battle re-enactment in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, where the Lord Protector of the English Commonwealth was born. The town's Roman Catholics played no part because of Cromwell's involvement in the massacres of Irish Catholics.

Second class stamp cut to 19p

The cost of posting a second class letter is cut by 1p from today. The reduction from 20p to 19p is the first in stamp prices for 14 years. Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, said the cut was made possible by the greater commercial freedom given to the Post Office by the Government. The dividend the service has to pay the Treasury has been reduced.

Army drivers put on spot

The Army is trying to improve its driving standards and reduce accidents. Stickers which proclaim "Army Driver — Be the Best" and then ask "Am I?" are being fitted to more than 1,000 military vehicles attached to 2 (South East) Brigade based in the southern Home Counties. Anyone wanting to comment about the way the vehicle is driven is invited to call a Freephone number.

Computers face virus havoc

Computer users have been put on alert to check their machines for an electronic virus that will strike today. The virus, known as CIH, lurks invisibly in a computer then causes havoc to stored data. As well as deleting files stored in the computer's memory, CIH also attempts to corrupt one of the essential core microchips which, if damaged, could leave it unusable.

Runaway heifer finds sanctuary

A heifer that escaped from a slaughterhouse has won a reprieve. A Plymouth animal charity that praised its sense of survival has raised £1,000 to send the animal to a Norwich sanctuary. It charged past slaughtermen at Kingsbridge, Devon, on arriving from a farm last week and ran into the town. After armed police and a helicopter were called, the heifer was caught in a field.

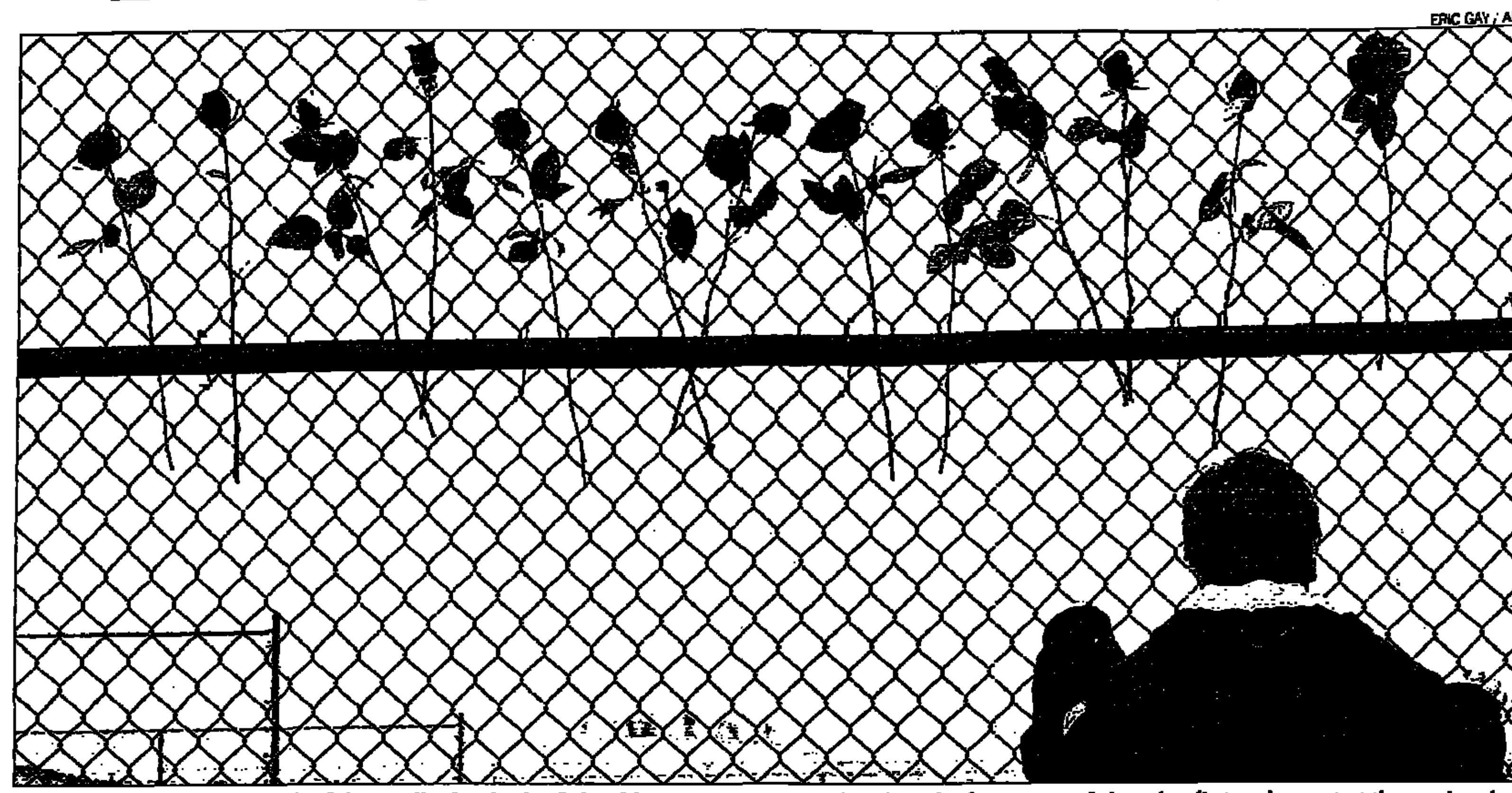
Boys spent year planning 'big kill'

Diary shows carnage was meticulously plotted, writes Giles Whittell

A METICULOUS diary found at the weekend shows that the Columbine High School shootings were planned for up to a year down to the last detail, including hand signals used by the gunmen to maximise their carnage.

The diary, discovered on the eve of a televised memorial service for the victims in Littleton, Denver, showed that Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold were not targeting sworn enemies but were "going for the big kill" and the destruction of their entire school, officials said. Across the country, schools were coping with a wave of copycat bomb threats, most of them hoaxes.

Sheriff John Stone of Colorado's Jefferson County would not say which suspect kept the diary but he described its tone at a press conference: "It was 'Day One, we do this. Day Two, we do this'," counting down to "rock-and-roll time" at 11.15am last Tuesday, he said. Fifteen people died in the three hours of terror that followed, among them Harris and Klebold. The suicidal teenagers had been building bombs and collecting guns for months, Sheriff Stone said. To plant the explosives undetected they had drawn up a map of the school marking its ill-lit areas, and they struck during the school lunch-hour to corner the largest possible number in an enclosed space. "They wanted to do as much damage as they could possibly do and destroy the school and as many children as they could, and go out in flames."


ERIC GAY / AP

Thirteen roses, one for each of the pupils shot in the Columbine massacre, were placed on the fence around the school's tennis court at the weekend

Up to 30,000 mourners were expected at a Denver stadium yesterday for a memorial service attended by Vice-President Al Gore, Governor Bill Owens of Colorado and the Rev Billy Graham's son, Frank Graham.

The event followed the funeral of Rachel Scott, 17, the first of the victims to be buried and a shining star at Columbine who was remembered as a gifted actress and devout Christian. More funerals follow this week.

A chilling e-mail purporting to be written by Harris before his death was discounted as a hoax. Many had joined his Trenchcoat Mafia for solidarity, and every pupil knew the gang existed. Not so Frank DeAngelis, the headmaster. "I had never heard of it until Tuesday," he said.

Five boys aged 13 and 14 were arrested in central Texas on Saturday after fellow pupils at their school in Wimberley told police about a bomb plot planned since January. Homemade bombs and instructions for building them downloaded from the Internet were found at the boys' homes. The local sheriff insisted "that these young men were serious about targeting students".

A *Newsweek* poll says that 50 per cent of Americans favour banning handguns after last week's massacre, the highest proportion since 1982.

Briton killed in 'fortress' estate

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

A BRITISH resident was pinned to the floor and shot dead in the back of the head at the weekend after intruders broke into his home in an upmarket Johannesburg estate which is surrounded by high security walls and patrolled night and day by armed guards.

Roger Prevett, 49, and his family were asleep in their home in Four Ways Gardens on Saturday night when his wife Linda 47, was woken by the sound of a glass patio window being smashed.

Police said yesterday she ran into a passage and saw two men. As she tried to flee back to the bedroom they opened fire shooting her in both legs and in the neck and stomach. She is seriously ill in hospital. It appeared, the police said, that Mr Prevett struggled with the men in the bedroom before he was forced face down to the floor and shot in the back of his head.

The attackers fled and although the motive for the break-in may have been robbery nothing was taken.

Letters, page 21

WORLD IN BRIEF

Huge drug haul found in Spain

Madrid: Spanish police uncovered the largest haul of heroin to be found in Europe in the past two years (Giles Tremlett writes). They said the 319kg of drugs, found buried in containers in woods near Ávila, 100 miles northwest of here, had a street value of more than £10 million. Police arrested 12 members of an international drugs gang with links to both Asia and Latin America.

They named the head of the gang as Urfi Ceinkaya, 50, a wheelchair-bound Turk. They said Ceinkaya is living in Istanbul, having fled Spain after being remanded on bail in 1995. The drugs had been smuggled into Spain via Holland hidden inside a large industrial drilling machine.

Cultists besiege Beijing leaders

Beijing: About 15,000 followers of the Fa Lun Gong religious cult besieged the Chinese Communist Party leaders' compound here to demand official recognition (James Pringle writes). Those taking part in the capital's biggest protest since the violent suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations in October 1989 stood quietly, shoulder to shoulder, before dispersing after nightfall.

India heads for another election

India's main Communist party, the second biggest opposition group, rejected appeals for its leader, Jyoti Basu, 84, the veteran Chief Minister of West Bengal, to form a new government, bringing closer the prospect of a third general election within three years (*Michael Binyon writes*).

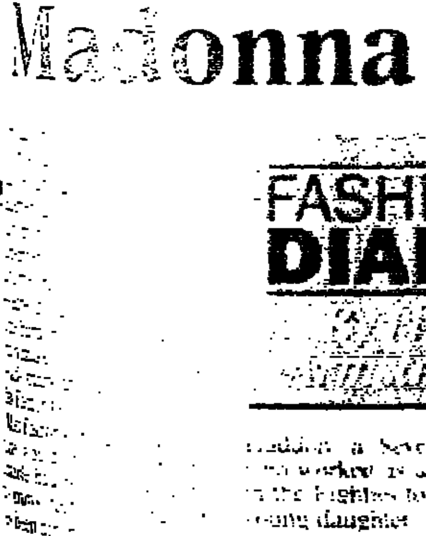
Mugabe tightens curbs on press

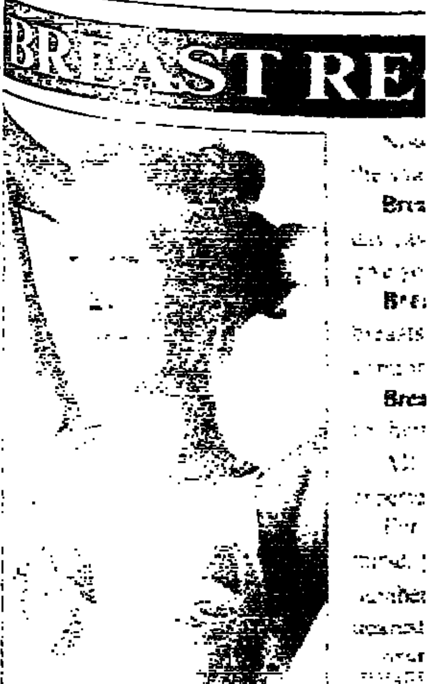
Harare: President Mugabe of Zimbabwe is tightening press controls by strengthening criminal libel laws that were introduced in the 1960s to curb black critics of white minority rule (Jan Raath writes). Journalists could no longer use "so-called civil liberties" as a shield, he said.

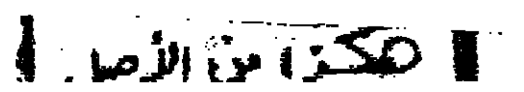
Australian artist Boyd dies at 78

Adelaide: Arthur Boyd, the renowned Australian artist, died on Saturday in a Melbourne hospital at the age of 78. A painter, sculptor and potter, Mr Boyd was regarded as one of Australia's great contemporary artists.

Obituaries, page 23







Dare you to wear it





FAR LEFT: Jacket, £389, and trousers, £119, by Comme des Garçons at Liberty, Regent Street W1 (0171-493 1258)

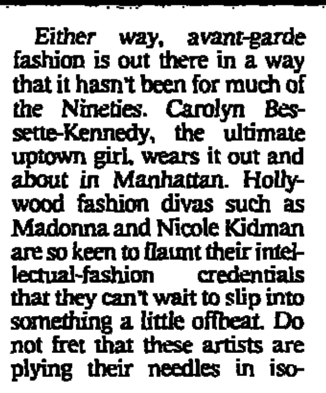
LEFT: Top, £305, and skirt, £675, both by Junya Watanbe, from Liberty, as before; trainers, £39.99, by adidas at branches of Office Shoes and Offspring (0181-838 4447)

ABOVE: Panel dress, £260, by Hussein Chalayan, from Browns, 23-27 South Molton Street W1 (0171-514 0051)

RIGHT: Top, £130, and skirt, £182, both by Shelly Fox from Whistles, 12 St Christopher's Place W1 (0171-251 8861)

PHOTOGRAPHER: KEVIN FOORD
Stylist: Charlie Harrington
Make-up: Alex Babsky at Mandy Coakley
Hair: Matthew Cross using LC2 hair-care products by Goldwell
Model: Shona at Select





Perhaps years of minimalism have done it, but avant-garde fashion has never looked more desirable than it does right now. This is partly because masters of the genre such as Yohji Yamamoto and Helmut Lang have refined their art to such a degree that the intellectual statements and challenging silhouettes of their clothes have become so subtle as to pass almost unnoticed.

The cognoscenti now appreciate that innovation doesn't come only in the form of a one-sleeved jacket or heels of different heights on a pair of shoes à la Jeremy Scott, but that it can also take the shape of a gentle ripple of pin-tucks on a shirt sleeve or the shoulder straps on a padded wrap. But although these might seem details, they are integral to the designer's overall ethos. You can bet that Yamamoto would never have arrived at the perfect white shirt and that Lang would not have such a way with his basic jeans line if it had not been for their tireless experimentation with more provocative prototypes earlier on.

Maybe the renaissance of the avant-garde (and you have only to glance at the output of Belgian designers and the interest in it to see that there is a renaissance) is partly a response to the global democratisation of style. As the high street gets better and better at copying catwalk looks faster than you can say "it's all about yellow", it follows that designers are going to have to become cleverer and cleverer to shake off the cheaper competition. Perhaps it's simply that the avant-garde has become less strident, more deviously appealing.

You could argue that wearable avant-garde is a contradiction in terms: if something is truly ground-breaking, shouldn't it be tricky, challenging and impossible to wear? Maybe (fear not, though, there's still plenty of the hardcore stuff around). Perhaps the clothes in these pictures represent a sub-genre of the avant-garde. Or perhaps these avant-garde designers have just grown tired of experimenting with different ways to look peculiar and instead took up different ways to look beautiful.

Either way, avant-garde fashion is out there in a way that it hasn't been for much of the Nineties. Carolyn Bessette-Kennedy, the ultimate uptown girl, wears it out and about in Manhattan. Hollywood fashion divas such as Madonna and Nicole Kidman are so keen to flaunt their intellectual-fashion credentials that they can't wait to slip into something a little offbeat. Do not fret that these artists are plying their needles in isolated poverty. Junya Watanabe, a protégé of Comme des Garçons' Rei Kawakubo and the creator of some of the most beautiful clothes in Paris, recently received a standing ovation for his complex metal and folded pieces. Meanwhile, slick international houses such as TSE in New York or Givenchy and Hermès in Paris recognise that even a label that pitches for the luxury sportswear or classic tailored suit market can do so more successfully if it has an avant-garde pioneer such as Hussein Chalayan, Alexander McQueen or Martin Margiela at its helm.

So don't think of the clothes on this page merely as making arresting images. They are meant to be worn and may well turn out to be classics of the future (certainly they stand more chance of doing so than that fluorescent-yellow poncho that you've been eyeing up for this summer). Great avant-garde clothes have a way of becoming timeless and ageless (it's no coincidence that Yamamoto, Issey Miyake and Comme des Garçons have more 70-year-old aficionados than the average fashion label). The next time you're tempted to buy something special, consider these. The air may seem rarefied up on the plains of avant-garde fashion, but it's amazing how pure it feels once you get there.

Madonna faces the Factor



THE fact that Max Factor has chosen Madonna to be its face is all well and good — acknowledgement as it is that 40-year-old women can look attractive (remember the furore when Lancôme relieved the then 40-year-old Isabella Rossellini of the burden of her contract). And it makes sense, given that the ads mark the debut of the Max Factor Gold range.

Max Factor's enlightened attitude would be even more laudable had not all Madonna's crows' feet and laughter lines been airbrushed into oblivion. To be fair, Max Factor is by no means the only cosmetics company guilty of this sleight of hand. Revlon appears to have an aversion to showing real flesh in its ads (it has pores). Still, times have changed since Rossellini was so shoddily treated. Dayle Haddon, a Seventies model who worked as a dishwasher in the Eighties to support her young daughter, recently saw her book, *Ageless Beauty*, heading up *The New York Times* bestseller list. Having struggled in the late Eighties to get beauty companies to adopt her as a mature spokesperson (she was 39), she founded her own company, Dayle Haddon Concepts, and the phone started ringing. A Clairol contract was followed by one for Estée Lauder. For the past four years she has been the face of L'Oréal's Plenitude Revitalift. Karen Graham, another Seventies cover girl, is the model for Estée Lauder Resilience Lift; Maud Adams, an Eighties Bond girl, is the president and company face of Marja Entrich Green Collection, a Scandinavian line. Given that women over 35 account for 60 per cent of the market, this can only be to their benefit; make-up companies ignore these demographics at their peril.

Madonna had no problems applying herself to modelling. "I think she was flattered to be asked," says Ann Francke of Procter & Gamble, which owns Max Factor. "And when she realised that past house models included Bette Davis and Rita Hayworth she really threw herself into things."

Madonna's enthusiasm included choosing the make-up artist Sarah Monzani, who created her Forties look in *Evita* and is now turning her into a bronzed ("it's time-consuming; Madonna never tans") Californian yoga teacher for her role opposite Rupert Everett in *The Next Best Thing*. "She's not afraid to use make-up. On *Evita* she'd put in her teeth and eyes (she wore a veneer to cover the gap in her front teeth and brown contact lenses) and she'd become Eva Perón." It takes commitment to wear veneers, contacts and lashings of fake tan, but if the part demands it ... For her next campaign perhaps she'll even sport the odd wrinkle.

■ MARKS & SPENCER has taken so many knocks recently that it seems almost spiteful to sling yet more arrows its way. However, I had to check out its summer offerings ... the best pieces were the stretch cotton shirt with three-quarter-length sleeves, £30; the Irish linen range, which had hooded sleeveless tops for £26, and bias-cut long skirts in black or stone for £40; and some sporty hybrids such as a grey sleeveless shirt that came with a drawstring skirt, both in a grey polyester mix that looks like lightweight wool but is machine-washable. It isn't a huge cache of goodies considering the amount of merchandise on offer in the Marble Arch store, and it slots into the useful rather than the irresistible category. I can't help thinking that until it takes more notice of fashion trends, everything on its rails will look a little limp.





GEORGE WALDEN: MEMOIRS OF AN ANTI-POLITICIAN

When I think of William Hague



In the first extract from *Lucky George*, the outstanding political memoir of the year, **George Walden**, the former diplomat and Tory minister and an acute observer of the Westminster scene, gives his candid — and often caustic — opinion on some of the leading figures in the Conservative Party

MAX NASH

John Major: an achingly decent man assembled from parts that never quite fit

JOHN MAJOR

Coming back to Westminster after the 1992 election made me more doubtful than ever about whether I had done the right thing in standing again. Major had triumphed. Maastricht was coming to the boil, and the Right was in vengeful mood. During his election Major had made an attempt to draw me into his circle. Sarah Hogg, his campaign manager, asked me to No 10 to sound me out about writing speeches for him, but I backed off smartly. And later, when David Mellor sounded me out over lunch about returning to the Government, perhaps at Major's instigation, I made it clear that I was not interested.

I had nothing against him — how could anyone? — and certainly did not despise him. He was a conscientious man doing a near impossible job and I respected his pertinacity. It was just that I could never convince myself that he was Prime Minister or, come to that, a real person at all. The most important thing about him was his face. His features were familiar to the point of banality, yet at the same time completely unreal. At first glance everything seemed right: one more glance and you saw it was totally wrong, an assemblage of parts that did not fit. Major was a self-made man in more senses than one, a composite person whose features fitted together as awkwardly as his sentences. It was as if the British nation, in a fit of literal-mindedness, had decided that if we were going to have a truly representative Prime Minister, then we must construct one who reflected its every physical and character trait. And needless to say, the construct came out awry.

With his moderate instincts, his decency, honesty, sense of fair play, stubbornness, stylelessness, inarticulacy and lack of imagination, sometimes you felt that he was the most representative Prime Minister we had ever had, and that you could no more object to John Major than you could to the country as a whole. The trouble was that, after a brief flirtation with this benign caricature of itself, the country did object. They thought they wanted someone like themselves as Prime Minister, and when they had got him they began to think that it was not what they wanted at all.

The high point of our non-relations came before a crucial Maastricht vote. I was planning to abstain and the whips were desperately trying to convince me that if I and one or two others did not go through the right lobby, the Government would fall. Half an hour before the ten o'clock vote Major called me into his office. He looked in a poor way and I felt sorry for him. I was feeling a bit sorry for myself. I had got myself into a tricky position. I opposed Maastricht because I feared it was a treaty too far which would eventually damage Europe by taking integration beyond its natural limits. Other rebels opposed it because they had an ideological aversion to Europe or were populist chauvinists. It was from fear of being listed in the political company of Bill Cash or Teresa Gorman that I was abstaining rather than voting against. Now, like Major, I was in a corner.

> I could never be persuaded he really was Prime Minister

I explained my position. After rambling on about the dangers, he suddenly said: "I didn't ask for this job." I had heard he was getting low, but this seemed to me an unacceptable thing for a Prime Minister to say, and I felt oddly indignant. If my composite leader couldn't convince himself that he really was the Prime Minister, how could anyone else? "You can't say that, Prime Minister," I told him curtly. "Any other minister can say it but you. They are appointed but you appoint yourself."

His remark was pathetic, but the pathos worked. When you feel sorry for people you do not go out of your way to make life more difficult for them. It was one of those rare moments in Parliament when the way you vote might actually matter, and I had to choose between my misgivings about Maastricht and the risk of bringing the Government down, or at least fatally weakening it. Unable to face being lumped in with the Europhobes, in the end I swallowed my pride and, ingloriously, voted for the Government.

They were lucky I did. Major won by three votes. To judge by his frame of mind that night he seemed in a mood to resign. I don't recall Major thanking me: perhaps the man who had told me that he hadn't asked to be Prime Minister didn't really want to win.

1996: The Conservative Government ground on. One day Major came into the Tea Room. As usual I felt uncomfortable in his presence. I had criticised him from time to time yet he was always smilingly courteous. An achingly decent man struggling to hold the Government and party together.

Major left off eating his jam scone and reached for the *Standard*: "Now, George, let's have a look at your stars. What sign are you?"

"Virgo."

Major solemnly looked up my horoscope and read it out: "In spite of all your work in an important area of your life you may not have succeeded as you had hoped. Don't go on doing something you don't enjoy."

I laughed and hastily diverted the conversation. Only John Major could give you a new respect for horoscopes. The previous evening I had discussed with Sarah the modalities of giving up my seat.

JOHN REDWOOD

AS polling day approaches, a sort of frenzied optimism is mounting in direct proportion to the slump in the party's electoral fortunes. They go on pretending that victory will somehow be snatched from the jaws of disaster even when those jaws, in one by-election after another, are biting lumps out of the party's living flesh. And, of course, their hopes are pinned on neo-nationalism. Europhobia is breeding a crazed euphoria. Bolstered by the propaganda in the Right-wing press, more and more Conservatives believe that all you have to do to dispose of new Labour is to strike super-patriotic postures. Say boo to Johnny foreigner and the voters will flock to you. To me they appear as raving romantics, as desperate for an enemy as we once were for a role, and subconsciously transporting our late and deeply mourned adversary from Moscow to Brussels.

John Redwood is running about in jaunty clothes, his saturnine features swathed in a manic grin. He has just stood against Major and is delighted with the publicity, which he sees as a successful first step to persuading the country that he is a human being. The trouble is, the more he tries to behave like a normal person, the madder he looks. Redwood is studiously courteous to me, since I have publicly threatened to leave the party if he is elected leader, and he wants to show what a big, forgiving man he is. One evening I find myself sitting opposite Redwood at dinner in the Commons. Tonight he is excelling himself, crazier than ever, got up in light suit and bright tie, and as I listen to his demented talk about how useless German cars are, oh no, a Jaguar for him every time, he's so bloody patriotic he's got two of them. I am tempted to look under the table to see whether he is cross-gartered, in yellow.

From strutting Churchillian to everybody's friend

MICHAEL PORTILLO

As the Tory party splits asunder on Europe and a great void opens in the middle, the choice is to line up with one side or the other, and I am tempted by neither. What the party fails to notice is that, in so far as they spend their time thinking about Europe at all, the electorate are camped on the territory that the bulk of the party has vacated: somewhere in the middle.

Amid all this, Michael Portillo strides about the Commons like a man of destiny. Our Minister of Defence moves with Churchillian mien and fateful tread, as if preparing to announce his decision to loose off a battery of nukes against — well, whom exactly? That is Portillo's problem: against whom to defend our imperilled nationhood.

I had got to know him when he replaced me as a PPS, and liked him more as an individual than as a public man. He was certainly bright, and a competent Minister of Defence, yet he is a man with a problem. The trouble with Portillo is that he is immature. The immaturity stems from his obsession with his name and appearance, and from the fact that outside politics he is a highly inexperienced man.

God knows we all have our problems, and our aspirations are invariably dogged by our past, but I can think of no other politician who faces the same hurdle as Portillo: to become Prime Minister of Great Britain while convincing the electorate and himself of his Britishness. His insecurity as to his nationality seems so deep as to be ineradicable. One can only suppose that he was twitted at school about his black hair, thick lips and "dago" name and never got over it. The narrowness of his background — from Harrow to Cambridge to politics, with not much in between — makes things worse. Had he done National Service or seen a bit of the world all that sensitivity about his origins would have been knocked out of him long ago.

The irony is that his foreignness is a problem for no one but himself. He seems not to understand that the British actually like a bit of exoticism, to liven things up, and provided you are good at the game you play, and choose England as a place to play it, they will wish you the best of luck. He could be an outstanding politician if only he stopped fretting about himself and got to know his country. As it is, Portillo in full patriotic cry sounds distinctly foreign, for all the world like some Argentine general banging on about *la patria* in his bemedalled uniform and braided cap.



ANDRE CAMARA

Portillo: his foreignness is a problem only for himself

CHASTENED by the loss of his seat, now he is sliding from one extreme to the other. Out go the Churchillian mien and fateful tread. Now we are called on to admire a brand new Portillo — feely and relaxed, pathetically anxious to ingratiate himself with the self-same masses who, four years earlier, were told to know their place. This is not to say that Portillo's new persona will not work. He is certainly succeeding in forcing himself on our attention. With William Hague as his chief rival, that may not be saying much.

So maybe one day Portillo will make it. In a sense I hope he does, if only because his neuroses are more interesting than Hague's genial vacuity. Somehow our self-styled de Gaulle contrives to impart the feeling that he is waiting in the wings for the nation's call — and who knows, maybe the call will come?

Portillo is a far from dislikeable man who commands loyalty among his supporters, whose very uncertainty about himself can evoke sympathy, and who could yet insinuate himself into the nation's affections through his television series and the rest. One can imagine a scenario some years ahead where Portillo is back in the House, William Hague is ditched as ineffectual. Portillo replaces him. Labour find themselves in economic trouble, economic and monetary union explodes six months after we join in a sod's law replay of the ERM, and Portillo gets in by a landslide on a quasi-nationalist ticket.

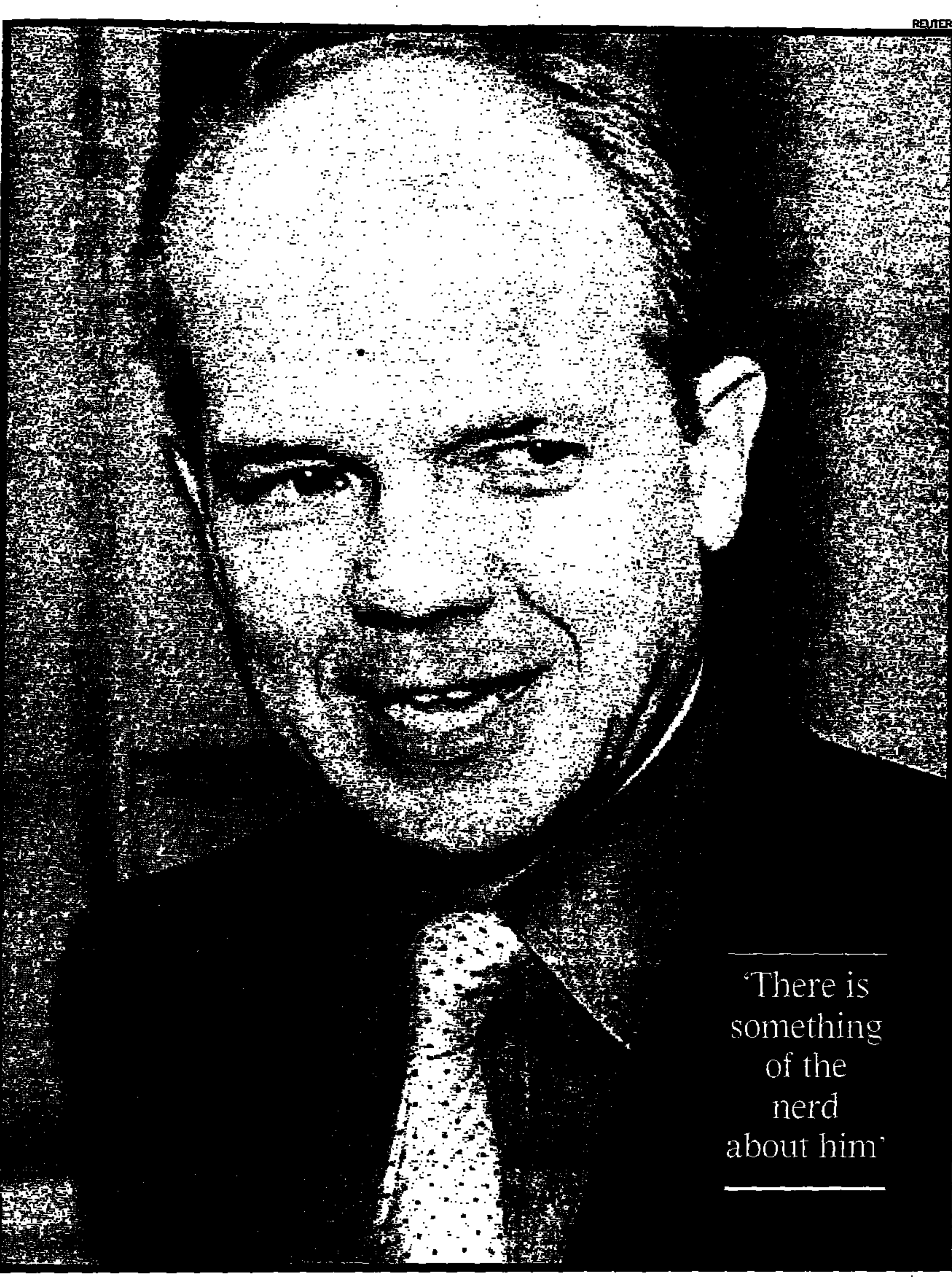
How would our national saviour make out in office? The judgment of a politician who is perpetually trying to convince people of something about himself will always be suspect, so we must hope that this able and intelligent man is bright enough to throw off some of the Little England riffraff surrounding him, and to learn from mistakes.



GEORGE WALDEN: MEMOIRS OF AN ANTI-POLITICIAN

... nothing occurs to me

REUTERS



William Hague: "There seems no harm in him because where there is no personality there can be no harm"

WILLIAM HAGUE

WHENEVER I talked to Hague in the Commons and asked him how things were going or for his opinion on this or that, he either smiled or giggled. I am told it was the same when he was in Cabinet, though there it was more smiles than giggles.

For all his brightness and McKinsey past there is something of the nerd about him: what can you say of a man who since his early teens has been trainspotting MPs? Of course he's good at PM's Question Time: he's been playing at being Prime Minister all his life. It's just bad luck on him that Question Time, in the popular imagination, has ceased to be important. Pity he didn't go through the normal phases of being a Green or a Trotskyist. Like those infuriating voters who say "Don't worry about me, I've always voted Tory", you want to say to him, look, you're an intelligent fellow, has it never crossed your mind, not even once, that there could be another way of looking at things?

He has all Major's niceness and decency, in corporate form, and there seems no harm in him because where there is no personality there can be no harm. In all the years we were in Parliament together somehow I can't recall a single thing he has ever said or done that is of interest.

When I think of William Hague, nothing occurs to me.

Not giving a sod is Ken's forte

KENNETH CLARKE

IAN WALDIE



Kenneth Clarke: an entertaining parliamentary character

POOR Ken Clarke battles on, genially exasperated, and you have to hand it to a man who never lets his exasperation drown his geniality. In his position I might be tempted to hit someone. He invites me to a meeting with half a dozen colleagues to discuss electoral strategy (why me, I cannot imagine). The meeting is a waste of time. The jet-lagged, florid-faced Chancellor cannot breathe a word without some Euro-maniac saying, well that's all very well, Ken, but what about EMU and the convergence criteria? What is really astounding about him is that, while most other pro-Europeans are busily trimming, Ken just goes on saying what he thinks.

One evening I ask him where he's off to next. Southern France, he says, and boy am I looking forward to it. All that fantastic food and wine, superb weather. I love it down there! I find myself glancing round to see who's listening. This is traitorous stuff, like a Soviet finance minister saying he is off on a trip to the West and by Christ is he glad to get out of this hole. For this is a party where allegedly grown-up people like William Cash go round saying they don't like continental wines, never have done, give me Australian any day. When I select burgundy in preference to oceanic or South African at dinner, jokes are made about francophilia. But of course they are not jokes. This party is not just sick unto its soul, it's sick unto its liver.

Ken doesn't give a sod. Not giving a sod is Ken's forte, and being a lazy sod somehow increases the attraction. He is too indolent to care what becomes of him in the party. If you want me as leader, he seems to be saying, take me as I am, along with my thoroughly genuine and touchingly non-representational wife. Ken and Mrs Ken are the least political pair in Parliament and therefore, in the eyes of a non-politician like myself, greatly to be applauded. The trouble is that behind it all he would be very happy to be leader, but knows he is going nowhere.

The paradox of our Ken is that the bluff outspoken pro-European is a super patriot, a professional Mancunian who seems to think that we are every bit as good as we were and have a monopoly of common sense. So why all the fear and defensiveness about Europe? In a curious way his cavalier optimism about the single currency and European integration is as much a form of British complacency as the Europhobes' opposition. He thinks we are above it all and can bluff our way through. Have another one? Well, kind of you to ask, I think I will. Cheers!

The last time I saw him was after the elections. By then he had lost his leadership challenge and was as far out in the new Tory party as it is possible to be. A couple of months earlier he had been Chancellor of the Exchequer; now he was sitting alone in the Garrick. He joined us for dinner, and was as much himself as ever. No bitterness, no venom, just lots of enthusiasm about a bird-watching trip he was planning. His future seems to be to turn into one of our parliamentary characters, of the more entertaining variety, though it seems a waste.

● Extracted from Lucky George *by George Walden, to be published by Penguin on May 6, £17.99, available to Times readers for £15, p&p, from The Times Bookshop, tel: 0990 134459*

CHRIS PATTEN

WHEN I heard that Chris Patten was being considered as Governor of Hong Kong, I felt concerned. For all his talents and "wotcher, cock" amiability, I was by no means sure that he was the man to steer the place through the years ahead. I told him that he would find himself dealing with two sets of intolerable people: the Chinese Communists, who were among the biggest bastards in God's creation, and the local Chinese fat cats, many of whom ran them a close second.

Having accepted the job, Patten began playing David to China's Goliath. I went to see Hurd and told him I did not understand our tactics. If more voices were needed to denounce the Chinese leaders, I would be happy to oblige. Otherwise I did not see how the frightened old men of Beijing, who had crushed students under tanks in the presence of the world's cameras, could be sensitised to the need for more democracy in Hong Kong by public pressure alone.

Hurd was his usual "now let's be sensible and keep steady" self. The only reassurance he could offer was that the Americans were four-square behind us. I watched for signs of their support, and saw what I had expected: the White House proclaiming the sanctity of human rights at the top of its voice then instantly buckling under the pressure of the US business lobby.

I was indignant about what I saw as a hypocritical British policy, endorsed for opportunistic reasons by all sides of the House. Our late conversion to democracy in Hong Kong was essentially a conscience-salving exercise: to assuage our guilt in handing back a colony we had taken under the immoral circumstances of the Opium War to an immoral regime. Far from being heroic and altruistic, our stance seemed to me to be self-serving and, in a sense, cynical. There was every chance that our tactics would end up leaving the people of Hong Kong with less democracy, not more. Which is exactly what happened.

Not everyone was blind to what was happening. Quite a few Tory backbenchers took the view that, in their words, Patten had "buggered it up". But Hong Kong was not the sort of issue that led to backbench rebellions.

So the British decked themselves out in their moral finery, and the charade took its course. The Royal Yacht sailed in, the retreat was movingly orchestrated, Patten's friend Jonathan Dimbleby made a hagiographic TV film based on his still more hagiographic book *The Last Governor* and "honour" was satisfied. The Chinese had their pretext to undermine the elected Legislative Council, and proceeded to do so, so everyone was happy.

One crucial, unanswered question remains. Before Patten was appointed, a confidential understanding defining the degree of democracy Hong Kong would enjoy had been reached between the British and Chinese Governments, and enshrined in an exchange of letters signed by Douglas Hurd. It is hard to think of anything more central to Patten's mission, yet in *The Last Governor* Dimbleby says that Patten had not seen or heard of the letters before the confrontational speech he made after his arrival. No wonder the Chinese Communists called Patten a double-dealer.

For reasons best known to himself, Dimbleby fails to answer the central question: how could Hurd, who had signed the letters, and Major, who



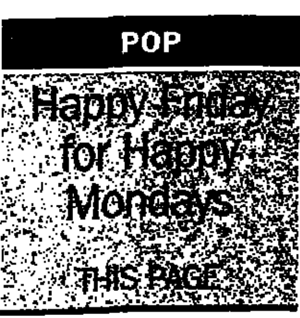
Patten: unanswered questions

must have been in the know, have failed to warn Patten? Dimbleby shuffles the blame on to officials, and quotes Hurd as chiding them for not reminding him to show the vital letters to the new Governor. This explanation is unconvincing. Why did Hurd and Major not tell Patten personally that there might be some difficulty about re-engaging the battle for democracy, on account of how they had long since sold the pass? If he was kept in the dark, Patten would seem to have a legitimate grievance. Yet given the relationships involved, we seem unlikely to discover the truth from the luvvie circle of Dimbleby/Hurd/Major/Patten.

TOMORROW

A nuclear bombshell from David Owen





THE TIMES ARTS



Paris hails the African Rodin

VISUAL ART: Adam Sage visits a bridge over the Seine to see the sculpture show that is causing a sensation in the French capital

A cold, unpleasant rain is falling on the French capital. The Seine is choppy. It is a day for right-thinking Parisians to begin lunch at 11.45am and continue eating until late afternoon. But on the Pont des Arts, several hundred people are ignoring common sense, pangs of hunger and the chill wind to witness the most successful exhibition in Paris this spring.

The bridge contains 68 sculptures by a Senegalese artist, Ousmane Sow, who was almost unknown in France until now. His large, rough-hewn figures portray African tribal peoples, including the mighty Nuba wrestlers and his own slender, elegant ethnic group, the Peulhs. The centrepiece is a frieze that tells the story of the Battle of Little Big Horn. A giant and faintly African-looking Sitting Bull implores the gods to help him. A few metres along the Pont des Arts, one of General George Armstrong Custer's soldiers is scalped by a Sioux warrior.

The sculptures are the latest in a series of free open-air exhibitions laid on by Paris Town Hall. Over the past decade, there have been works by Botero and Giacometti on the Champs Elysées and, last year, by Mark di Suvero on the Champs-de-Mars.

The announcement of this year's attempt to "bring art to the people" met, at first, with incredulity. How would sophisticated Parisians react to the powerful, sensual but unsophisticated work of Sow, French critics asked. "Everyone is extremely upset," said *Le Monde* as the exhibition opened. "Absolutely everyone."

Not so today. As more than 5,000 people cram morning and afternoon on to the small pedestrian bridge between the Louvre and the Académie Française, Sow has won stunning acclaim and popularity.

"The African Rodin" was how *Le Parisien* described him. "One of the world's greatest living sculptors" was *Le Monde*'s reconsidered verdict. A burly security guard at the Académie end of the Pont des Arts said: "The bridge is a mass of people at the weekend. You can't move and we have to let them on in small groups." The Town Hall says this is one of the most successful open-air exhibitions it has put on.

If the crowds are a surprise, then so, too, is Sow's career. Born in Dakar in 1935, he trained and worked as a physiotherapist for 30 years before turning to sculpture at the age of 50. His first shows were held in the basement of his practice in Paris, where he emigrated in the 1970s before returning to Senegal as his work started to attract critical attention 20 years later.

His knowledge of the human body is clear and striking. The muscles on the 2.5m tall Indians at Little Big Horn are tense. The Nuba wrestlers are poised to spring forward with an earth-shaking leap.

> ‘More than 5,000 people pack the Pont des Arts’

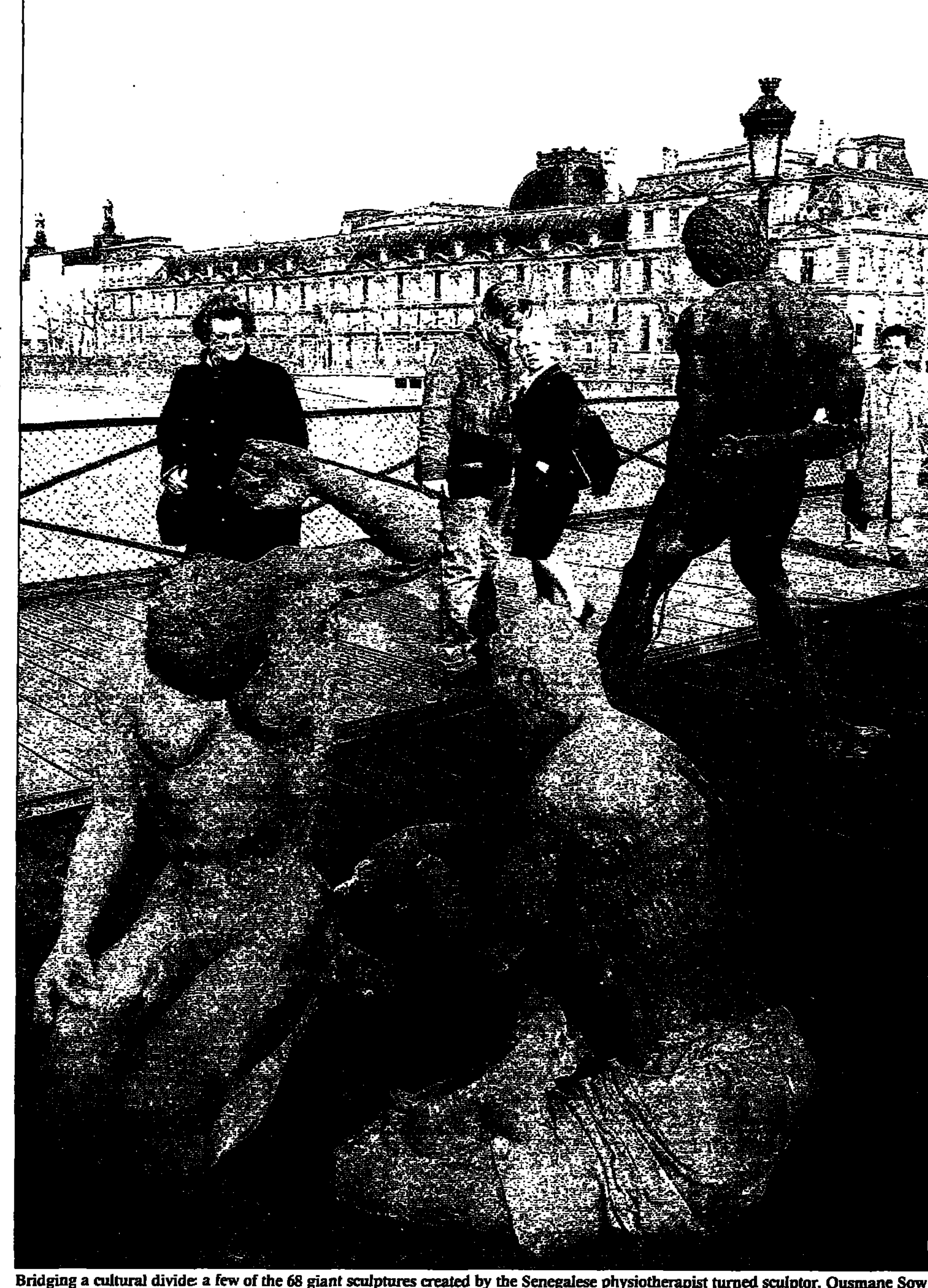
"We live in an electronic world where we ignore what is essential," says Sow, who himself measures almost two metres. "Me, I talk of the human being." There is energy, sex and violence. "We have to struggle to conquer the woman we love," he says. "The struggle is a means of existence."

His figures are built up using layers of cloth sacking around an iron frame, giving them an air of papier-mâché. But the artist refuses to reveal the ingredients that go into his paste. "It is a synthetic vegetable product that is macerated in about 20 different casks."

He claims to seek energy and movement more than realism. "If you want precision, you could copy the wooden horses from roundabouts," he says. "They are perfect but have no life, no depth." Yet to his crowds of new admirers, Sow is a welcome change from the highly abstract art that dominates contemporary Parisian exhibitions. "This is all accessible, unlike most modern art," said Serge de la Vallée, a 43-year-old builder from Paris. "Everyone can get the gist of it straight away. It's great." So great, in fact, that he had skipped lunch to see it.

● *Ousmane Sow's sculptures are on show until May 20*

AFP

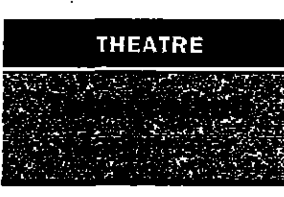


Bridging a cultural divide: a few of the 68 giant sculptures created by the Senegalese physiotherapist turned sculptor, Ousmane Sow



Smoke without fire

THEATRE



The American playwright Alex Finlayson has something of a special relationship with the Royal Exchange Theatre. This is her third play to be premiered here, and the third to poke a penetrating finger at the social malaises of very different American cultures. Following in the nomadic footsteps of *Winding The Ball* (set in a supermarket in small-town USA) and *Misfits* (set in Hollywood), this time she pitches up on a tobacco farm in North Carolina.

The play takes place in the present, and we all know the status of smoking in America today — somewhere between the criminal and the insane. Finlayson's three generations of farmers, the Smalls, have got the weed in their blood in more ways than one. Now they find themselves the beneficiaries of a concern going nowhere. The daughter, Vette, is all for selling up and moving on. Her father, Hearon, vows to defend his birthright to the death — though not necessarily his own.

Finlayson paints in the political and economic background with a strong sense of historical perspective. David (Julian Forsyth), an English documentary-maker, is conveniently on hand to elicit Hearon's informative tirades. "Up top ev'ry one of them columns, up at the United States Capitol Building, is a tobacco leaf," he rants to camera. "Tobacco built this country."

It is an intriguing business and Trevor Peacock's garrulously drawling Hearon is an entertaining guide. But Finlayson's play is essentially a tale of family strife, and here it comes unstuck. To my mind the characters are too underdeveloped for anyone to care much why Vette is such a tart or her near-speechless nephew, Reno, such a troublemaker. Both are something to do with Hearon's latent irascibility; but he, too, turns so quickly from moonshine-swigging old grump to gun-toting madman that Peacock himself looks rather taken aback by it.

Where Finlayson does score is in the quality of her dialogue and, save for some ghostly goings-on, the naturalism of her setting. The realistic sets of tobacco warehouses and fields and the cicadas on the soundtrack conjure up an almost filmic feel. The director, Gregory Hersov, finds an easy familiarity between the characters, and the talented cast are wholly watchable.

NIGEL CLIFF

A blast from the indie past

POP

Happy Mondays
Manchester

The recent glut of pop group reunions has produced few comebacks more unlikely than that of Happy Mondays. The Manchester band famous for inventing indie-dance music split acrimoniously six years ago. The only member to have been heard of since is the singer Shaun Ryder, whose brief reappearance with Black Grape came to a similarly sticky end early last year.

With a big tax bill cited as the sole reason for Happy Mondays' sudden return, expectations for the six-date UK tour — which concludes this week with three sold-out shows at London's Brixton Academy — were understandably low. At the group's hometown gig on Friday night, however, the audience was in for a pleasant surprise.

Before Happy Mondays stepped on to the stage of the Evening News Arena, the support DJ Paul Oakenfold took the 15,000-strong crowd back to the band's early 1990s heyday by playing classic indie-dance hits such as Paris Angels' *Perfume* and Primal Scream's *Come Together*. Oakenfold launched his career by producing Happy Mondays' seminal third album *Pills 'N' Thrills And Bellyaches*. His presence proved to be apt. Fronted by a surprisingly fit-looking Ryder, his legendary, dancing sidekick Bez, and female vocalist Rowetta, who was dressed like a leather-clad cowgirl, Happy Mondays spent the next hour performing tracks taken almost exclusively from *Pills 'N' Thrills*. A surprisingly tight, infectiously funky set began with *Loose Fit*, which was followed by a run of old favourites such as *God's Cop*, *Kinky Afro*, *Denis And Lois* and an ecstatically received *Step On*. It was even possible to make out most of Ryder's slang-like lyrics. In the past, the singer tended to mumble his way through words scrawled on to pieces of paper. His memory had not improved, however. The newly professional Mondays had simply placed Autocues all over the stage.



In the mood to dance: Bez in action at the Manchester gig

The only real criticism of the evening was the absence of the original guitarist Mark Day, whose unique playing style was a large part of Happy Mondays' distinctive sound. Replacement Wags, formerly of Black Grape, may have been technically better, but he could not recreate Day's endearingly haphazard chords.

The show ended with an encore of the new single *The Boys Are Back In Town*, and a spectacular, ten-minute rendition of the early hit *Wrote for Luck*, during which Bez's two kids and Shaun's eldest daughter were brought on stage to shake maracas. This was Happy Mondays in sensible mode, perhaps for the first time.

LISA VERRICO



DONALD COOPER

Fido (Lillian Watson, left) and Poppet (Leah-Marian Jones, right) put their best feet forward in Britten's *Paul Bunyan*

Britten at large in America

OPERA

Paul Bunyan
Sadler's Wells

There's a slight but very positive sense of conflict about this welcome revival of Britten's "American operetta" of 1941, happily salvaged from the Royal Opera's cancelled 1999 season. First there's the sheer entertainment value of the show itself: Richard Hickox's big-boned conducting, Francesca Zambello's helpfully inventive production in Hildegard Bechtler's economic decor (wonderfully lit by Wolfgang Göbbel), the performances of each and every member of the large cast — all seem quite faultless.

At the same time one is constantly goggle-eyed at the sheer brilliance of much of the music: *Peter Grimes* most certainly did not spring from nowhere four years later. The technical assurance of a composer still in his twenties is astounding: the craftily varied accompaniments to innocent-sounding strophic numbers, the deft construction of ensembles, knowing just when, in *Great Day of Discovery*, to bring in brass punctuation, just where to place the modulation and lift the audience out of their seats. All this, quite apart from the basic matter of hummable tunes, denotes a born theatre composer, and one capable of engaging a popular audience.

All of which led to speculation on what might have happened had the Britten-Auden partnership not foundered, had Britten not retreated — as some hard-hearted persons still argue — into English, not to say Anglican parochialism and personal concerns with much creaking of closet doors. *Bunyan* looks out into the world, looks at the foundation of a new society: the later operas tend to look inward. Unprofitable speculation, of course: no one is going to complain about the series of masterpieces that followed.

And one must beware of overpraising the piece. Of course there are faults: Britten isn't always in tune with Auden's flippant, Cole-Porterish verbal humour: the Swedish lumberjack's mutiny doesn't quite work; and I still have doubts about the all-too-aptly named "camp animals". But any potential flaws are minimised in Zambello's big, bold production, which won one of its awards specifically as an ensemble undertaking, which is what it is: every member of the chorus is a principal, and vice versa. It is the superbly disciplined singing of Terry Edwards's Royal Opera chorus that most clearly reveals Britten's genius, ironically in that the piece was written essentially for amateurs.

But it is an ensemble into which an international tenor like Kurt Streit, new as Johnny Inkslinger, can fit effortlessly, and Lillian Watson's brilliant performance as the camp dog Fido almost won me round (Zambello wisely eschews canine costumes). To hear a singer like Peter Coleman-Wright using breath control to spin long lines in the simple-sounding ballads is enormously rewarding, and the same is true of Timothy Robinson in Hot Biscuit Slim's entrance number, the catchiest in the score. Susan Gritton is enchanting as the protagonist's daughter, though her entrance, and immediate marginalisation, is another dramaturgically awkward moment.

But it is the ensemble that counts. The closing image shows the whole company, motionless, gazing into the audience, left on their own after the abdication of their leader to build a new world. Every single face on stage was saying something. Unforgettable.

RODNEY MILNES

This week in THE TIMES



■ THEATRE

Prunella Scales takes centre stage in Pinter's *The Birthday Party* at the Piccadilly
OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



■ MUSIC

Raising funds for Croatian monuments: Ivo Pogorelich plays Chopin in the RFH
CONCERT: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



■ DANCE

The St Pancras Chambers provides an unusual setting for Spring Loaded's *Salomé*
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



■ FILM

David Cronenberg's bizarre sci-fi thriller *eXistenZ* stars Jennifer Jason Leigh
RELEASED: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday

PLUS: Melodic pop with a hard edge: the Cardigans play a gig at the Albert Hall

CONCERTS: Beethoven gets the Richard Strauss treatment; Brahms is treated to a makeover; and a Bach expert makes allowances

Heroics coupled

CLS/Hickox
Barbican

RICHARD STRAUSS had his way with Mozart, as Rodney Milnes recently reported when reviewing the first UK performance of Strauss's idiosyncratic edition of *Idomeneo*. What he did to Beethoven pales by comparison, as we heard in the second of the City of London Sinfonia's tributes to Strauss in his 50th anniversary year.

At the end of his long, sombre elegy, *Metamorphosen*, the sense of déjà vu experienced in hearing its main theme is explained. This is the funeral march of Beethoven's *Eroica* Symphony, no less: Strauss wrote "in memoriam" beneath the notes. It was 1945: and this was a shuddering wake not only for a fellow composer, but for Munich, Berlin, Weimar and Dresden.

These resonances moved powerfully through the performance by the CLS, conducted by Richard Hickox. All 23 solo strings stood to play (except the cellos and basses): as they passed each other fragments of Strauss's great arch of melody, first spinning them, line by line, then weaving them into complex polyphony, the players, too, seemed to be paying their own tribute.

The impression was enhanced by the fact that the Beethoven symphony was still reverberating in the air after its performance earlier in the evening. The thematic connection, though, seemed to be the only reason for this *Eroica* performance. Neither Hickox nor his band had a great deal to say about the work. This was a respectful, meticulous and cogently argued performance, which is not, perhaps, quite all that this symphony could or should be.

Beethoven and Strauss formed a strong framework for another canny piece of programming: Haydn's cantata *Arianna a Naxos*. Strauss's own chamber-operatic response to the myth of the abandoned Ariadne will be heard tomorrow, but, for the time being, Christine Brewer took charge of the Haydn in no uncertain terms. Her lustrous soprano brought the distressed Arianna's questions into foreground focus before conjuring up a startled vision of the approaching Argive ship, and finally withdrawing into faded hope.

HILARY FINCH

Flexible to a fault

Philharmonia/Thielemann
Festival Hall

A FORTNIGHT ago Daniele Gatti and the Royal Philharmonic gave us a Brahms Third recalling Karajan or Kempe. If Christian Thielemann and the Philharmonic did not invite similar comparisons with their Brahms Fourth, it was partly because this conductor invokes different antecedents, and partly because his interpretation, though remarkable, raised a doubt or two.

Thielemann gave notice of his intentions with the first note: a quavering, infinitely protracted upbeat that clearly signalled much rhythmic latitude in the movement to come. Where Gatti was surging and passionate, Thielemann elected for a rhythmic flexibility that recalled his spiritual mentor, Furtwängler.

Nowhere was this latitude more marked than at the approach to the recapitulation with its massive rallentando which then gradually picked up speed and then stormed off in the coda. The finale similarly encompassed a broad largamente near the start and a heady ending, while the slow movement was allowed generous space to unfold.

Evidently Thielemann was endeavouring to create a living organism unconstrained by regular metre or unified tempo. The danger, not entirely avoided, is that such freedom sounds artificial rather than spontaneous. Yet if I had to choose between this approach on the verge of self-indulgence and the unadventurousness of so much Brahms one hears, I would opt for Thielemann's experimentalism any day.

There was less wilfulness on show in Schumann's Konzertstück for four horns and orchestra and Mozart's Violin Concerto No 3 in G. In the former, Michael Thompson stepped in at short notice to provide the principal horn part in his own edition of the work. Designed to relieve some of the superhuman difficulties of the part, his edition spreads the load among the other players (Robert McIntosh, Laurence Davies and James Handy). In the Mozart, Christian Tetzlaff demonstrated exemplary Classical manners, but with just a hint of subjectivity in the veiled Adagio.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Bach with some bite

Mass in B Minor
Edinburgh

THERE is a third way. While Frans Brüggen no doubt prefers to conduct Bach's Mass in B Minor on period instruments — as he recorded it — there is no reason why a performance by an ensemble like the Scottish Chamber Orchestra should not be at least acceptably authentic.

It is not just a matter of knowing how Bach sounds with a period-instrument orchestra and of imitating it on modern instruments. That doesn't work. It is more a matter of making the right compromises in approximating to the ideal in terms of balance, colour and articulation. At the same time there is the question of the voices to think about, of casting the soloists and of accommodating a non-specialist chorus in the general concept.

In St Mary's Cathedral the 50 or so voices of the SCO Chorus sounded just about right. Divided into a double chorus in the *Osanna*, some of the eight parts were hard pressed to retain their place in the texture. On the other hand, there was no lack of contrast in the almost over-dramatic transition from the clouded chromaticism at the end of the *Crucifixus* to the brilliant D major at the beginning of *Et resurrexit*. And in coping with what Brüggen presumably feels to be authentically brisk tempi, the ensemble survived more or less intact.

With the soloists, the compromise might have been better adjusted. Emma Kirkby, an essentially period-instrument voice, was out of place here, particular when in partnership with Catherine Wyn-Rogers, who is more operatic. In this context the two male voices, James Oxley and Neal Davis, both of them displaying unaffected integrity, were more appropriately chosen.

As for the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, while some of the instrumentalists awarded obbligato roles were more stylish than others, the high horn and trumpet sound, the fluency of the oboe d'amore, the sensitivity in retaining a true balance with the soloists and chorus, the clarity of the textures — even in a cathedral setting — were admirable features of a generally serious but entirely unsolemn performance.

GERALD LARNER

The other crises? What crises?

Keeping Blair's mind on the Balkans has its price

No Prime Minister can handle more than two crises at the same time. This old Downing Street adage is being tested to the full at present. All crises have opportunity costs — other issues do not receive the attention that they otherwise would. Decisions are not taken, or are fudged.

The domination of Tony Blair's diary by Kosovo has affected the other urgent issue, Northern Ireland. Although closely involved in attempts to break the current stalemate, as he will be again this week, Mr Blair has not been able to devote the time in intensive, face-to-face talks that he did before the Good Friday agreement. He may not be able to achieve a breakthrough, but his personal role is seen as crucial on all sides.

An obvious short-term casualty of Kosovo has been Mr Blair's drive to reform the European Commission. Following the debacle over the resignation of the Commission last month, he was keen to persuade other European leaders to adopt a far-reaching reform programme linked to the appointment of Romano Prodi as President. British ideas for improving internal financial controls are still on the table, but have made little progress because talks among European leaders are dominated by Kosovo. Little is now likely to happen until after the European elections in June — and the new Commission takes up office in September.

The domestic impact is clouded by the division of responsibility between Mr Blair and Gordon Brown. The Chancellor is now unchallenged chief executive on most economic, industrial and social issues. Peter Mandelson's resignation four months ago removed the only powerful independent voice, while John Prescott is largely absorbed in his sprawling department. Mr Brown has also taken charge of the Scottish election campaign, determining strategy and having close allies, such as Douglas Alexander, in day-to-day charge of co-ordination. If the latest polls are right, and the Scottish Nationalists are well beaten in ten days' time, that will be Mr Brown's triumph.

Downing Street insiders say that Mr Blair's preoccupation with Kosovo matters less both because departments are busy implementing decisions already taken and because there is now a lengthy period of "purdah" preventing new announcements ahead of the May 6 elections, and then the June 10 European elections. Mr Blair has often talked of 1999 being "the year of delivery". Departments have been set a lengthy list of targets under the public service agreements with the Treasury. But this requires constant prodding from the centre.

The intervention of the Prime Minister is often needed to overcome departmental inertia. This is just the time he should become personally involved in sorting out the mess over the future of London Underground. Even in those areas in which Mr Blair is particularly interested, such as education and health, pressure from him is needed to maintain reform. For instance, the drive to bring in appraisal of teachers and performance-related pay is at a tricky point because of opposition from the unions.

Kosovo may, in time, also affect government spending plans. Fortunately, public finances are pretty healthy in the short term, so the immediate costs of the war should be absorbed without too many problems, once the Treasury and the Ministry of Defence have sorted out their usual spat about paying for replacement missiles and the like.

The problem is more in the long term. Provided the alliance does not fracture over the coming weeks, any lasting solution for Kosovo is likely to involve the commitment of a large number of troops there, as a peacekeeping and protection force. But two fifths of the Army are already on active service, an unsustainably high proportion for a peacetime professional force. So the size of the Army will almost certainly have to be increased.

Moreover, Britain and the rest of Europe are likely to have to spend very large sums rebuilding Kosovo and helping the economies of the surrounding countries.

The danger with regional conflicts such as Kosovo is that they distract attention from global priorities. Bill Clinton has been strongly criticised by American businessmen for failing to reach an agreement with China over its admission to the World Trade Organisation during the recent visit by the Prime Minister, Zhu Rongji. Integrating China into the world economy is a key Western priority, but Mr Clinton did not properly focus on the issues until too late. Germany and France have similarly feared that the West's relations with Russia might be a casualty of Kosovo.

Peter Riddell

Tony Blair has been worried for some time that Russia's default last summer and its failure to address its deep economic problems could produce an anti-democratic and aggressively nationalist leadership. These fears have, of course, been fuelled by Kosovo, even though Russia's warnings are more a sign of weakness than of strength.

Mr Blair argued in his Chicago speech on Thursday that the Cologne summit of leading industrial nations in June should adopt a package of trade, technical assistance and substantial financial help.

As Mr Blair argued, Kosovo is only the latest demonstration — others include the Asian financial crisis and transatlantic trade tensions — of increasing global interdependence. He has called for a new "doctrine of international community".

The euphoric days of the end of the Cold War are over. Surmounting these problems is going to take up much of the time of heads of government, as well as being more expensive for their taxpayers.

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Hatred past and future

If Nazism echoes from Kosovo to Brick Lane, racism goes even deeper

I think one has to take it further than Hitler; indeed we may fail to understand the racism that threatens the world's future if we personalise it too much on him. Yet I found Niall Ferguson's article in yesterday's *Sunday Telegraph* very persuasive; he linked the Columbine High School massacre, the Serbian ethnic cleansing in Kosovo and the Brixton bomb to the historic influence of Hitler.

Fifty years after his death, Hitler retains his hateful fascination. His personality plays a much larger part in the contemporary world debate than those of the victorious war leaders, Stalin, Churchill or the half-forgotten Roosevelt. The only other European leader to have retained a similar hold on the public imagination 50 years after his death was Napoleon.

The facts are clear enough. The high school massacre was carried out by neo-Nazi fantasists who exchanged "Heil Hitler" salutes with each other and adopted German phrases and trenchcoats as symbols of their Nazi views. They targeted at least one black student because he was black. The group that has claimed responsibility for the Brixton and Brick Lane bombings, Combat 18, apparently takes its name from Hitler's initials: A is the first letter of the alphabet and H is the eighth. The Balkans have a long history of ethnic cleansing; there is an inherent racism in the attitudes of the Serbs and the Albanians towards each other. Nato has used the comparison between Hitler and Milosevic as part of its propaganda.

We do not yet know precisely who planted the London bombs, but there is no reason to question the police assessment that these were racial attacks, nor is it unlikely that the bombs were made and planted by neo-Nazis. The bombs were exploded in areas of ethnic concentration at a time when they would injure or kill the largest possible number of people. Their aim must have been to terrorise the ethnic communities of these areas, and to worsen race relations.

Whether these bombs are the start of a sustainable campaign of urban terrorism, no one can yet tell. At the least they belong to the same group of racist crimes as the Stephen Lawrence murder, or the other racist assaults and murders that have occurred too frequently in recent years. Many of these incidents have attracted little attention, but they have spread fear and resentment.

The recruits to neo-Nazi and racist groups come from the same people who form street gangs, engage in football hooliganism or get involved in fights outside pubs. They are not necessarily poor or unemployed, but many of them have criminal convictions or criminal associations. Some may belong to the ranks of the dropouts and the excluded, as, in his adolescence in Vienna, Hitler did.

Many are simply street bullies, who take into the street attitudes they have already shown in the playground. The Columbine High School killers were obviously intelligent, perhaps highly intelligent. The original Nazi pattern of intelligent leaders directing street thugs can be regarded as a natural one. If Combat 18 is a large enough organisation to have reached this stage, it is likely to have this pattern of leadership.

William Rees-Mogg

In the past 50 years, Britain has seen a number of these groups form, cause trouble, draw attention to themselves, then break up and fade away. Despite Enoch Powell's grim forecast, Britain has largely remained a stable and racially tolerant community. The Lawrence inquiry argued that racial attitudes in the Metropolitan Police were exceptionally bad. Without questioning the judgment in that case, one could equally argue that race relations in Britain as a whole have remained better than might have been expected. Yet it would not take very long for a terrorist campaign to bring that to an end. London and many other cities are now multi-ethnic communities, and such communities are vulnerable to ethnic tensions.

The Jewish community has a special understanding of the threat. Anti-Semitism is not the only form that racial prejudice takes; indeed, in modern Britain fewer people admit to anti-Semitic prejudice than to anti-black. The Brixton and Brick Lane bombs were not directed against Jews, nor was the Columbine High School massacre, nor is the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo. Yet anti-Semitism is the classic case of racial prejudice, and the Holocaust is the classic racist event of the 20th century.

No Jew ever believes that anti-Semitism has wholly disappeared. All Jews outside Israel, like all black or Asian people in Europe or America, have to live with the painful knowledge that there are people they meet or work with who feel an intrinsic hostility towards them. They know the little sneers that will be made, the assumptions of racial difference, the stereotyping, the exclusion. And they know how much worse has lain behind that, in medieval British history, in modern European history. Jews do not forget the Holocaust, because they cannot afford to forget. I suspect that most of them think of the Holocaust, for one reason or another, every day. Many think of it more often than that.

The best account of the Holocaust that I have read is Martin Gilbert's book. His first chapter does not open with the Wannsee Conference of January 20, 1942, at which the "final solution" was adopted; indeed, he reaches that conference only on page 280. He starts his book with a quotation from Martin Luther dating from 1543, almost 400 years earlier. This was Luther's "honest advice" on the treatment of Jews. "First their synagogues should be set on fire," their homes should be "broken down or destroyed". Jews should be "put under one roof, or in a stable, like Gypsies, in order that they may realise that they are not masters in our land". Jews should be put to earn their livings "by the sweat of their noses", or should be stripped of their belongings "which they have extorted usuriously from us" and driven out of the country "for all time".

One does not think of Martin Luther, the courageous leader of the Reformation, in the same terms as one thinks of Milosevic, the Columbine High School killers, the London nail bombers, or indeed Hitler. Nor would it be right to do so. No one who understands and values the Protestant tradition of the individual conscience can fail to see Luther in an heroic light. Yet his attitude to the Jews is atrocious. His anti-Semitism is not as vicious as Hitler's, since he does not recommend that they should all be killed, but he does recommend ethnic cleansing, burning them out of home and synagogue, herding them into camps, stealing their money, even expelling them "for all time". By 1543 Luther was a man of great public prominence. This was no mere expression of private prejudice.

Hitler saw his own anti-Semitism as a species of Darwinism. "One may be repelled by this law of nature which demands that all living things should devour one another. The fly is snapped up by the dragonfly, which is itself swallowed by a bird, which itself falls victim to a larger bird . . . if I can accept a divine commandment, it is this one: thou shall preserve the species." He was talking, at that point, specifically about the Jews, in December 1941, just over a month before the Wannsee Conference.

It is not, I think, the ideologies used to justify racism, whether Christianity or Darwinism, that explain the evil itself. They are rationalisations; anti-Semitism and other forms of racism seem to be a basic human instinct; they show a sense of hostility to the stranger, who is perceived as a threat. Perhaps this is ultimately a Darwinian explanation, since a strong awareness of the potential threat from strangers may have been conducive to survival in the many millennia when man was still a hunter-gatherer.

It is not conducive to survival now. By the end of the 20th century, mankind is armed with many weapons of mass destruction so lethal that they cannot be used for any ordinary purposes of war. Racism, in all its aspects, is the most likely cause of future wars, and it is the present cause of tribal war in Africa and Yugoslavia.

The Lawrence report stated that the Metropolitan Police were "institutionally racist". Perhaps they are. The greater worry is that mankind may be "instinctively racist". If we cannot cure ourselves of that flaw in human nature, the outlook for the next century will be even grimmer than the experience of the century that is passing.

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DIARY

House guest

WITH customary sensitivity, the Oxford Union is to debate "This house believes that racism is inevitable". To lend intellectual force, John Tyndall, the chairman of the British National Party, will be among next month's speakers. From his illustrious party, Combat 18, a group that claimed responsibility for the Brixton bomb, reputedly sprang.

After last term's visit by Jerry Springer, the Union has acquired a taste for tawdry headlines. Tyndall appeared on BBC TV recently supporting repatriation: my man with the clip-on bow-tie at the Union says: "We will be more sceptical than on the hustings of the Isle of Dogs. The university police have been informed."

CORONARY-INDUCING antics in Soho, where Damien Hirst, the ageing enfant, *has taken to prancing around naked. Regulars at the Groucho are allowed to peruse an album of photos depicting Hirst sans attire. Michael Wojas, from the adjoining Colony Rooms, is weary: "When Damien has had a few glasses next door, he runs in here and says, 'Michael, I'm going to take my clothes off.' He then parades around stark naked, shouting 'what do you think of my body?' I've seen it many times."*

■ AFTER poetry became the new pop and gardening the new game, economics is to become the new erogenous zone. A young Cambridge don (above) has won a record *six-figure* advance from Random House for a new book, teasingly titled *The Silent Takeover* (which bangs on about how global business rules our lives).



Noreena Hertz, 31, promises to "make economics sexy". She has advised Boris Yeltsin on reform and helped Jordanian and Israeli ministers with the peace process. Literary types such as Ion Trewin agree that it is the largest book deal ever won by an economist.

A TV spin-off is being negotiated with guest stars Bill Gates and George Soros. "Business is going to be the new superpower," Dr Hertz pants, warming to the new lingo.





THE gun attack on Beryl Bainbridge by her mother-in-law is the stuff of legend, but now the author says she had been subjected to a second assault from her relative, this time with a knife: "By this time I tell my children 'when Granny reaches into her handbag to give you sweeties, drop to the floor'."

■ THAT fashionable Soho joint Dell'Ugo (proprietor: Antony Worrall Thompson) has just been graded "high risk" by environmental health inspectors at Westminster council. The restaurant, praised for its animal-loving ethos and freqented by Mo Mowlam, Jonathan Dimbleby and Downing Street sorts, was recently invaded by a giant shrew.

"I was strolling past when a shrew came flying out of the front door and a waiter scurried out after it," says a senior TV producer.

The restaurant's manager responds: "We have gone through our routine inspection and there is no evidence of any rodent activity in the building." I'll stick to the Rioja.

POLITICOS in Brussels have a new threat: Jeremy Paxman's baby brother. Giles Paxo has been appointed Head of Chancery in the Brussels Embassy, putting him in charge of political relations between the two nations. "He's a lot cleverer than I am — and a lot smoother," Paxo Sr assures me. "He's more of a diplomat." Jeremy admits that he was rejected by the Diplomatic Corps: "I was wisely seen as unsuitable." Nonsense, he is just what the FO needs.

JASPER GERARD

'Fifteen years ago there were no adverts and no products to advertise. A soft drink was a soft drink and there was only one word for it — water'

Happy milkmaids, fields of corn, golden light and lots of old men vaguely modelled on Leo Tolstoy. This is the surreal image of Russia presented in television ads. Quite how anybody expects people who actually live here to believe that there are robust, rosy-cheeked girls in embroidered shirts happily slopping milk from one pail to the next in some pastoral idyll outside the ring road, I cannot imagine.

Fifteen years ago there was none of this drivel. No adverts, no products to advertise, no spin. Cheese was cheese (in fact there were two sorts — yellow and white), and a soft drink was a soft drink. There was only one word for it — water. Anything non-alcoholic came under this name. You knew where you were.

Then, in 1990, a billboard went up in Pushkin Square. It was huge. On it was a little line-drawing of a man holding a can. The caption, a ludicrously literal translation of the English, read: "7UP. More a jar of water than a way of life." People stood before it, squinting up in a desperate attempt to extract meaning. This was the start of advertising in Russia.

For at least two years, direct translations of foreign advertisements baffled the Russian populace. "Bounty — the enjoyment of paradise" did not disclose that there was something to eat beyond the palm-tree wrapper and not a sex aid, as the words suggested. But eventually the economic colonists got the hang of things and started running faintly 1950s-style ads of the "buy this, it does this and is better than that" type. This went down much better and Russians began to believe that there were differences between cans of drink, and the ways of life that went with them. They were not quite as convinced as their Western counterparts, perhaps — Russians in general have a more finely developed sense of irony than we do — but they managed to have a Coke versus Pepsi war nonetheless.

Anna Blundy



Today, however, it's a new ball game. While the nightmarish "Papa? Nicole!" might not yet be appreciated, Western-style coffee ads are. Nowadays, the idea is to show affluent Russians enjoying the finer things in life. There is a fantastic one in which a girl lets a waiting lover leave messages asking where she is, as she enjoys her delicious cup of coffee in a faintly sexual way.

The thing is, where is she? She cannot be shown in some awful Brezhnev high-rise, but the beautiful pre-Revolutionary apartments here are not yet fashionable because old people are still dying in them. So this gorgeous woman lives in a ground-floor place that overlooks a forest and is always bathed in golden light. If by some amazing chance such a place exists, she would need bars on the windows and an armed guard nearby.

But best of all, there are now Russian companies running sophisticated ad campaigns. The trouble is, they have a Russian product to sell to Russians. This means that they cannot use beautiful Russian youngsters, looking Westernised and standing in a basketball court saying "I can chew it all day and it never loses its taste", because that is still selling the West to Russia. They have to sell Russia.

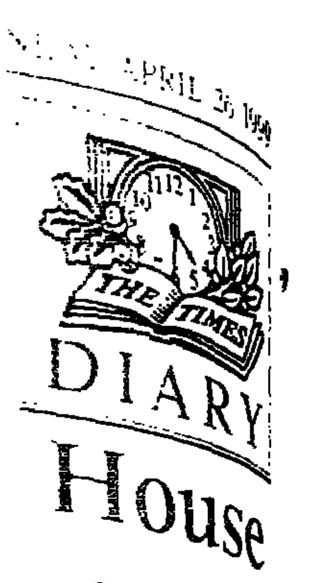
The results are hilarious. This surreal twilight zone country has emerged — happy peasants in fields of gold meet affluent new Russians with cars and country houses. The most toe-curling of these involves a little boy on in-line skates, gliding along a pristine riverbank (no such thing around these parts and anyway, he would fall down a pothole in the pavement and do himself an injury), hand in hand with his Grandpa. I think the boy is wearing a Walkman around his neck and if not, he ought to be.

Grandpa has a long, grey beard and is wearing a belted peasant shirt and shoes made out of reeds. Presumably his son eschewed his simple way of life and became a contract killer or similar (in-line skates are expensive). Anyway, Grandpa is droning on about how the cathedrals are the heart of Russia (how he came out of Communism looking so well with such stringent religious beliefs is anyone's guess). The boy looks convinced.

The strangest, though, is *Milaya Mila* (sweet Lyudmilla), a pretty, buxom mother who goes out into the pale morning light, skips through the dew to her healthy, happy cows and comes home with pails of fresh milk for her eager, early-rising family.

What is so interesting about all these ads is that, without exception, they carefully omit the past 75 years. It is as though Russia leapt straight from Tolstoyan paradise to American dream without a glitch. Would that were true — and perhaps, with a carton of milk, a stick of chewing gum and an aromatic cup of coffee, it just might be.

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THE TIMES

TIME FOR THE FRONTLASH

A new neo-Nazi threat based on old hatred

It is the result of fortune alone that no one has been killed in the two nail bomb attacks in London over the past ten days. Although the devices deployed in Brixton and now Brick Lane have been described as unsophisticated, the impact of such explosions at short range would be deadly. These assaults are designed to murder, maim and, above all, terrorise the neighbourhoods concerned. Whether they have been organised by Combat 18, the self-styled "Command Council of the White Wolves", or a different extremist faction is immaterial: they obviously represent a direct threat from the far Right and are clearly racist in motivation. The objective is to frighten Asian-British and black-British communities.

This is a serious criminal development and one to which the Metropolitan Police have rightly offered the maximum possible attention and resources. It is important, however, to remember how small the neo-Nazi Right is in this country and how feeble its political prospects are. These are violent acts prosecuted by those with no chance of even a modest degree of power. To intimate otherwise is only likely to offer warped pleasure to those responsible.

There is no evidence that these attacks represent some sort of "backlash" to the Stephen Lawrence inquiry. This is sheer speculation that attempts to provide logical form for what is at root pure hatred. Organisations such as Combat 18 have been around in various forms for a number of decades. Their membership has never numbered more than a few hundred, most of whom spend relatively little time in their ranks. It is not clear that the Macpherson report has triggered any surge in their popularity.

These attacks may instead be the result of other factors. The ultra-Right in Britain has been engaged in one of its frequent rounds of infighting. The partial introduction of proportional representation has persuaded parts of the British National Party that it should enter the electoral arena more vigorously and "broaden its appeal" in an implausible attempt to replicate the relative success of the French National Front. This has prompted a realignment and possible radicalisation of the remaining strongly racist sector. The American militias have set an example for some of these individuals to follow. The Internet might have provided another means of disseminating information on the construction of crude devices.

The Metropolitan Police have an opportunity not only to arrest those concerned but also lift their standing in the eyes of ethnic minorities. The Macpherson report portrayed a police force seemingly unwilling to recognise a distinct category of racist crime. The reaction of the police over the past week has shown an enormous improvement on past insensitivity. Deputy Assistant Commissioner Alan Fry has dealt with these incidents in a direct manner and adopted a tone that conveys an appropriate sense of urgency. He deserves the widest possible co-operation from the public.

The nail bomb assailants wish not only to sow fear among minority communities but to drive a wedge between them and white residents. The best possible response is not only their swift arrest but an investigation that brings together people of different colours. An increase in the esteem in which the Metropolitan Police are held would be an obviously unintended but extremely welcome consequence of the current bombing campaign. There is not a white "backlash" either to the Lawrence report or to any other aspect of race relations in Britain — although the ultra-Right would love to foment one. As Lyndon Johnson once said, it is time for the "frontlash" to materialise.

WOOLF AT THE DOOR

A legal revolution today that will take some time to judge

Great expectations await the reforms to civil litigation that come into effect today. These changes are based on the recommendations made by Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, in 1996. Then they were hailed as the solution to the protracted and expensive court process which has needed a lawyer at every twist and turn. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, has continued this crusade, presenting these reforms as a key part of his broader campaign that includes the controversial Access to Justice Bill, in protest against which the Law Society has today taken out advertisements in the national press.

The expectations that the long-awaited Woolf reforms will transform civil justice into a quick and cost-effective remedy for disputes, accessible to all, are about to be put to the test. The principal theme is that of keeping as much litigation as possible out of the courts by encouraging alternative, or early, resolution of disputes. If the reforms succeed in this, then the costs and time spent in litigation will fall.

The chances of such success lie mainly in the hands of the judiciary. Judges have taken over the responsibility for moving litigation forward, replacing the lawyers acting in the case who were seen to have an interest in prolonging litigation in order to earn more fees. With this responsibility have come new powers to impose stiff penalties on those who prolong disputes. If judges use these powers effectively, litigants will find that fighting to the bitter end does not pay.

This will not happen overnight. These reforms are overhauling civil legal procedure and turning litigation on its head. Litigators will now be operating in new and unfamiliar territory. Under the new regime of disclosing facts and arguments in advance, the tactics of trial by ambush will be relegated to the past. At the same time, the traditional lawyers' hammer and tongs of procedural rules — studied and practised for years — have been replaced with an entirely new set of instruments. Everybody will be a beginner, and lawyers will be treading cautiously at first, inquiring over every point, and possibly making court hearings themselves even slower than before.

The lawyers' complaint is that these changes have been rushed in too quickly. The legal professions are notoriously reluctant to change their ways. The Bar has been stalling for years over opening up its monopolistic restrictions on who can appear in court. Cynics might view the Law Society's latest attack on the cost-cutting Access to Justice Bill as an attempt to preserve its members' livelihoods.

There is, however, some justification for their protests. The Lord Chancellor has been hurrying his law reforms through Parliament. The Access to Justice Bill was presented to Parliament without the nuts and bolts of how its changes will actually work. Similarly, although Lord Woolf said that his reforms depended on the use of new administrative technology, this will not be in place for another year — seriously jeopardising judges' ability to process their new workload.

Transitional difficulties are, however, inherent to all programmes of change. It would be wrong to judge the effectiveness of these reforms on what may be a sticky start. Nor should the wrinkles and irregularities which will inevitably be found in the new procedure be taken as a sign that it does not work. Every system has its own set of problems. What counts is whether, in the long run, the speed and cost at which people can solve their legal problems improve.

SAFELY MATURE

The cheesemakers smell a Whitehall plot

Cheese and bureaucracy do not mix. As we report today, specialist cheesemakers fear that overpowering bureaucracy might force them out of business as quickly as over-ripe Camembert provokes exit from the larder. The plight of these small businessmen highlights the dilemma politicians face. At the whiff of a food scare ministers are quick to promise new regulations to lessen the risks of picking up a knife and fork. The result can be bankruptcy for producers, less choice for consumer and, in this case, the death of the runny cheese and the supremacy of the rubbery one.

Only a few weeks ago, the Government was praising the British cheese industry's products, describing them as "some of the finest of the world". Such plaudits are deserved. Britain's cheeseboard reflects the variety of the countryside, speckled with blues and reds, some smoked, others full fat, oozing with flavour.

Yet if the proposed new dairy hygiene rules are implemented, like a green field smothered by a motorway, this rolling calorific delight might disappear under the uniform monotony of slabs of processed cheese. Forcing small producers to send every batch of produce for microbiological testing, for instance, could make creating their delights unprofitable. The difference between what ministers are saying and planning is, it appears, chalk and cheese.

The cheesemakers smell the whiff of a Whitehall secret agenda, fearing that the regulations will mature into a ban on unpasteurised milk being used to make dairy produce. They argue that runny cheeses, made with untreated milk, cannot be made without bacteria, the enemy of the risk-conscious. Yet far from being beastly bacteria, these are on the side of the angels, fighting off listeria and making the cheese safe to eat. So forcing all producers to heat milk to 72C — pasteurisation — might be counter-productive, destroying the cheese's natural defence mechanism and its smelly, unique creamy qualities.

Ministers would be guilty of gastronomic vandalism if they allowed their quest for food safety to destroy the variety of the cheeseboard. Flagrant abuses of hygiene regulations should carry a penalty, but do not warrant a wholesale change in those regulations. Eating cheese is a risky business, but so is crossing the road or having a bath. In 1996, 34 people aged between 15 and 64 died from food poisoning, six of whom had listeria, while 83 people died by falling off a chair or out of bed. Politicians should remember the principle of "caveat emptor". Most shoppers, like good Cheddars, are mature.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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New legal rules 'a shambles'

From Professor I. R. Scott

Sir, On April 26, the Civil Procedure Rules 1998, implementing the reforms to the administration of justice recommended by Lord Woolf, come into force. Doubtless, the Lord Chancellor's publicity machine will be putting out a considerable amount of information extolling the virtues of the new system and emphasising in particular that it will provide faster and cheaper justice.

I doubt whether one will find any hint that the implementation of the new scheme is turning out to be a shambles.

It has been asserted that the Civil Procedure Rules (CPR) constitute a "new procedural code", written in plain English and that they will be readily understood by lawyer and lay-person alike. The truth is that, in many respects, the rules and their supplementing practice directions are an impenetrable mess.

Errors abound. Additions and changes have been made from week to week as "Woolf day" approached. Many appear to be very important. I say "appear to be" because some of the material put out recently is incomprehensible. Indeed, the further supplementing Practice Direction to Part 8 of the CPR (produced during the first week of this month) is one of the worst examples of procedural drafting I have seen.

As a result of the mismanaged implementation of the new scheme, judges, lawyers, court staff and litigants in person have been placed in an impossible position and recriminations are likely to be fierce. The civil justice system faces a long period of "muddling through", during which much time, effort and money will be spent on trying to operate and manage a procedural system that ought to have been got right well in advance of Woolf day.

Yours faithfully,
I. R. SCOTT,
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April 23.

Performance and pay

From Dr Alan B. Shrank

Sir, Why do politicians pursue policies abandoned by those who have introduced them in the past? In trying to force performance-related pay on teachers (letters, April 12 and 19), why have they ignored commerce's disenchantment with this policy?

Those who work harder than their colleagues do not do so to receive the incentive, nor do they work harder once it is received. Some not recognised as worthy of extra reward become disillusioned and work less. Overall, the total effort is reduced. Most big enterprises have discovered this and abandoned the policy.

Performance-related pay occupies the valuable time of assessors. Favouritism and blackballing can influence decisions. Ill-feeling is engendered and damages team spirit. In teaching, team spirit is particularly important, since the quality of the school or college depends on the combined efforts of teachers in different subjects and at different levels. To select one or more teachers is invidious.

The key to rewarding workers is to pay them all an attractive salary. This results in higher-quality personnel and a high-quality service.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN B. SHRANK
(Vice-President, Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association),
20 Crescent Place,
Town Walls, Shrewsbury SY1 1TQ.
April 20.

Victims of strokes

From Mrs Ruth Hazeldine

Sir, The letter from the Chairman of Council of the Stroke Association and others (April 15) makes an eloquent plea for better provision for stroke patients within the health service. They write as academics and health professionals, while I write as the daughter and granddaughter of victims of stroke.

Anyone who has witnessed the suffering of a stroke victim, and experienced the harrowing sense of helplessness felt by relatives, friends and carers, would support this plea for stroke units to be included in the national priorities guidelines.

Yours sincerely,
RUTH HAZELDINE,
52 Jacksons Lane, N6 5SX.
April 16.

Maritime heroes

From Dr Stanley Solomons

Sir, Captain P. M. Adams states (letter, April 20) that Christopher Columbus and Amerigo Vespucci "crossed unknown oceans when the English were just able to ship wine up the coast from Bordeaux".

Got their priorities right, these old English navigators, it seems.

Yours sincerely,
S. SOLOMONS,
165 West Heath Road, NW3 7TT.
April 20.

Letters by fax to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Risk of a Balkan wasteland

From Mr George Thomas

Sir, There is not the least fig of legality to our assault on Yugoslavia (John Laughland's article, April 22). We seem simply to have declared that what we decide is right is right and is the law whether or not the UN or anyone else agrees, and that those countries that do not observe our law must expect to be punished. This century has produced several infamous leaders who thought like that.

At least we should have observed one other law, which is that if you do break the rules because of a "greater good" then you had better be sure some great good comes of it. So far our interference has been a disaster and it might seem the situation could not be worse. But, for once, do we not have a duty to think this through? Will reducing Serbia, outrageous though its behaviour has been, into yet another Balkan wasteland really create a better situation than the one we have today?

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE THOMAS,
17 Campden Hill Square, W8 7JY.
April 22.

From the Director of the Atlantic Council of the United Kingdom

Sir, I do not dispute in any way the rights of Alice Mahon (report and letter, April 21) to exercise her conscience in an independent way as a Labour MP. I do know from personal experience from a visit I made to South Vietnam as a Member of Parliament in 1968 that anything you wrote — as I did for the press — exercising an independent judgment, was nevertheless used unscrupulously by both the South Vietnamese Government and Ho Chi Minh regime.

Although heavily criticised by some members of the Parliamentary Labour Party, I did not regret my visit. A number of newspapers at the time were interested in sponsoring my visit, which I refused. On arrival in Saigon, the South Vietnamese Government arranged my hotel; however, after a short period of time I moved and stayed with the British chargé d'affaires.

I think Alice Mahon made an error of judgment in accepting an invitation to visit Belgrade — including financial backing from a newspaper — when she might have known that her visit would have the effect of strengthening the Belgrade regime's propaganda.

I agree with her that the British public has the right to know the effect of the Nato bombings on the Serbian people. That could be simply rectified if Belgrade permitted free and unfettered press access.

Yours sincerely
ALAN LEE WILLIAMS,
Director, Atlantic Council of the United Kingdom,
Atlantic House,
8a Lower Grosvenor Place,
London SW1W 0EN.
April 21.

From Mr Edwin Roth

Sir, Clare Short is totally correct and justified in likening certain Labour MPs to those Britons who wanted to appease Hitler in the Thirties (report, April 21).

As a foreign correspondent, I was working in Israel during the Bosnian War when a demonstration against Milosevic's ethnic cleansing of Muslims was held in an Arab town there. To everybody's surprise, one participant was Professor Shevach Weiss, then the Speaker of Israel's parliament, an Orthodox Jew. "I came to this Muslim demonstration because I am an expert on ethnic cleansing," he said. "I am the only survivor of my family. All the others were ethnically cleansed by Hitler in Auschwitz."

Yours sincerely,
EDWIN ROTH,
20 Arkwright Mansions,
Finchley Road, NW3 6DE.
April 22.

From Mr R. Luta

Sir, The President and the four Vice-Presidents of the English Centre of International PEN wrote that: "Before Nato bombs began to fall, there was an active and vocal opposition to the tyrannical regime of Slobodan Milosevic with its vile policy of slaughter and ethnic cleansing of the Kosovo Albanians" (letter, April 20).

I was appalled to read this from people who lead such an institution. If this is not spin, or pro-Serb propaganda, it is ignorance at best. I come from Kosova, and by God, I wish I knew there had ever been a gathering of at least a few Serbs in Belgrade to express *any* kind of opposition to what the Milosevic regime was doing to the Albanians.

I would kindly ask Ms Billington and the signatories of the letter to send me any information to substantiate such a claim, if they have any.

Sincerely yours,
R. LUTA,
120 Merton Mansions,
Bushey Road,
Raynes Park, SW20 8DG.
ragip@luta.freeserve.co.uk
April 20.

Poverty in South Africa

From Mr Julian Charlton

The brutalisation of the police in South Africa (report, April 21, early editions) is a result not of the recent crime wave but of the apartheid era.

I visited South Africa in 1996 to make a television film on developments there. We went to townships, met aid workers and witnessed vistas of extreme poverty that barely seemed possible. Imagine the recent television images of the camps for Albanian refugees and multiply the number of refugees by the factor of a thousand.

There are literally millions of people living so far below the poverty line in South Africa that they do not even show up on the national register. In addition, I believe, they have been systematically terrorised by the authorities for decades.

When Western politicians talk about the need for jobs and housing it is a standard pre-election promise. When South African politicians talk about the same thing it is a matter of national security. What South Africa needs now is not a better police force but a humanitarian aid mission on a massive scale.

Yours sincerely,
JULIAN CHARLTON,
Newtown Lodge,
Blackrock, Co Dublin.
knuttel@iol.ie
April 21.

Gold teeth 'miracle'

From the Editor of the Evangelical Times

Sir, Your religious affairs correspondent associates the term "evangelical" with the way-out credulity and wacky behaviour of a minority of extreme charismatic churches and individuals ("God 'gives' gold teeth to believers", April 17).

An evangelical is a Christian who accepts the Bible as the inspired and authoritative Word of God, a position taken by all the major Protestant confessions of faith down the centuries. The word evangelical was applied to Bible-believing Christians long before the charismatic movement was even thought of.

It is true that, in the main, the modern charismatic movement has taken root within the evangelical community. But the kind of mumbo-jumbo described in your report about gold fillings appearing miraculously in teeth is rejected and deplored by the large majority of evangelicals including, I suspect, most moderate charismatics.

Evangelicals are concerned with the biblical gospel of Jesus Christ and the glory of God.

Yours faithfully,
EDGAR ANDREWS,
Editor, *Evangelical Times*,
87 Harmer Green Lane,
Welwyn, Hertfordshire AL6 0ER.
April 18.

Millennium bug

From Dr Godfrey Harverson

Sir, I have newly printed from our hospital computer network my report of a recent diagnostic investigation. It bears the date 31 Dec 40.

The monitor gives the year in full as 1840, precisely 100 years before I was born. Could this be an early sighting of the Y2K bug?

Yours,
GODFREY HARVERSON
(Consultant radiologist),
Broomfield Hospital,
Chelmsford, Essex CM1 7ET.
gharverson@compuserve.com
April 23.

Back to front

From Mr Frank Halford

Sir, On page 7 of today's *Times*, you report that men read their newspapers and magazines from back to front. What nonsense, I thought, and then realised I still had another six pages to read.

Yours truthfully,
FRANK HALFORD,
91 Worrin Road, Shenfield,
Brentwood, Essex CM15 8JN.
April 19.

Study of Latin

From Professor A. J. Woodman

Sir, You report today that Earl Spencer's eulogy for his sister has won the approval of Professor Lisa Jardine on the grounds that, if adopted for teaching purposes, it would make young teenagers realise that "language is important". Evidently Professor Jardine attributed the earl's rhetorical prowess to "his impeccable education", including the study of Latin.

Presumably this cannot be the same Professor Lisa Jardine who, when the Secretary of State for Education 18 months ago voiced his support for the teaching of Latin, was reported in the press as saying: "I cannot believe my ears." On that occasion she confessed that her "blood boils" at the idea of reintroducing "a dead language", rather than computers, into primary classrooms.

Yours sincerely,
A. J. WOODMAN,
Department of Classics and Ancient History,
University of Durham,
38 North Bailey, Durham DH1 3EU.
April 22.

Sport letters, page 33

Dyke 'disqualified' as new BBC chief

From Sir Paul Fox

Sir, It is inconceivable that the BBC would have asked me to return as Managing Director, BBC Television, had I, during my time at Yorkshire Television, made any financial contributions to a political party.

A decade on, nothing has changed. The BBC decided that Melvyn Bragg, one of our most gifted broadcasters, could not continue to host *Start the Week* on Radio 4 because of his well-known links with Tony Blair (report, July 8, 1998).

Although Greg Dyke is a charismatic and talented figure in television, he has disqualified himself from being a serious candidate for the job of Director-General and Editor-in-Chief of the BBC (leading article, April 23; letters, April 20, 21 and 23). The fact that his financial contributions to Labour are widely known and that he would somehow "balance" Sir Christopher Bland, the Chairman and one-time GLC Conservative councillor, is irrelevant.

Even in 1999, the BBC cannot bend the rules.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL FOX
(Controller, BBC1, 1967-73; Managing Director, BBC Television, 1988-91),
c/o 10 Charterhouse Square,
London, EC1M 6LQ.
April 25.

Digital TV

From the Chief Executive of Channel 5

Sir, The leaders of commercial television who wrote to you (April 21) deploring the prospect of a digital supplement to the licence fee seem prepared to sacrifice the long-term public interest in the welfare of the BBC for their own short-term economic ends. They all have a substantial stake in the success of digital television, but seem unwilling to acknowledge the important and growing role the BBC plays in ensuring the public appeal of digital offerings.

We are told that the BBC is investing 10 per cent of the licence fee — £200 million per annum — in digital infrastructure and services. The BBC's own free-to-air services (News24, Choice, Learning and Parliament), together with joint ventures such as UK Horizons and new, online offerings, will play a significant part in attracting digital customers. Do the signatories to the letter expect these services to be provided indefinitely at the expense of all licence-fee payers for the benefit of the digital minority (and, of course, themselves)?

There are precedents for the proposed supplement. Television was originally funded by a separate licence fee, over and above radio. Colour television was introduced in 1967 and a supplementary licence fee for colour the following year. It would be hard to argue that it inhibited the spread of colour; the extra investment by the BBC in new programming helped colour licences to outstrip black-and-white ones within eight years.

The signatories display little confidence in their own offering, little understanding of the past and little sympathy for the long-term role of the BBC in the digital age in suggesting that a £2.50 a month charge to fund the BBC's initiatives would seriously inhibit the transfer to digital.

There can be a serious debate about the scale and nature of the BBC's digital investment. However, to imagine that, for ever and a day, the BBC will be funded by a single, undifferentiated, flat-rate lump sum per household for all the services it offers would be to inhibit the BBC, the transfer to digital and (though they may not realise it) the businesses of the signatories themselves.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID ELSTEIN,
Chief Executive,
Channel 5 Broadcasting Ltd,
22 Long Acre, WC2E 9LY.
April 21.

Dress non-sense?

From Mr Duncan Williamson

Sir, I wonder what conclusions we can draw from the situation in which a high-profile husband (William Hague) is reportedly outshone when his wife simply wears a dress, seeming merely to emulate and possibly outshine the wife of another high-profile husband (Tony Blair) who wore a similar dress a year earlier ("Ffion's sari puts her back in the limelight", report, April 22)?

Yours faithfully
DUNCAN WILLIAMSON,
18 Abbott Road,
Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 2DT.
April 23.

Out of this world

From Mr Martin Todd

Sir, In the report "Branson plans to go into orbit" (April 22) I was somewhat puzzled by the statement that travellers will be charged "for a return fare of about £60,000". Does this mean that a single ticket is available?

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN TODD,
28 Devenish Crescent, Enniskillen,
Co Fermanagh BT74 4RB.
todd.family@swiftsoft.net
April 22.



COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 24: The Queen was represented by Sir Aaron Klug, OM, at the Memorial Service for Professor Sir Alan Hodgkin, OM, which was held in Trinity College Chapel, Cambridge this afternoon.

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Professor Amartya Sen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 24: The Duke of York today attended the Finals of the National Under-Twelves Rugby Festival at Twickenham, Middlesex.

April 24: The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment (29th/45th Foot) this evening attended a Regimental Dinner at Foresters House, Cetwynd Barracks, Beeston, Nottingham.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 24: The Duke of Gloucester, Trustee, the British Museum, today attended a meeting at the Museum, London.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 25: The Lord Faringdon, Lord in Waiting, was present at Royal Air Force Northolt, London this afternoon upon the Arrival of The Governor-General of Australia and Lady Deane, and welcomed Their Excellencies on behalf of The Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 25: The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon departed RAF Northolt for Saudi Arabia.

Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis is in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 25: The Prince of Wales this evening attended a celebration, by the Network of Sikh Organisations UK, of the three hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Khalsa.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 25: The Prince Edward today attended the finals of the Ladies Real Tennis World Championships at the Royal Tennis Court, Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey, Surrey.

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will address a conference organised by Regeneration through Heritage at the Great Western Railway Works, Swindon.

The Duke of York, as president, will attend a dinner of the Royal Agricultural Society of England at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester will attend a piano recital in aid of Historic Sites of Vukovar, Croatia, at the Festival Hall, London.

The Duke of Kent will attend a dinner with the Governor-General of Australia at the residence of the Australian High Commissioner, 45 Hyde Park Gate, London.

For more details about the Royal Family visit the royal website at: www.royal.gov.uk

Birthdays today

The Marquess of Bute, 41; Mr Justice Cazalet, 63; Mr David Coleman, sports commentator, 73; Sir Gordon Downey, former Comptroller and Auditor General, 71; Mr Justin Gosling, former Principal, St Edmund Hall, Oxford, 69; Mr Stuart Higgins, former Editor, *The Sun*, 43; Professor Sir James Holt, FBA, former Master, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, 77; Mr M.L.R. Isaac, former Headmaster, Latymer Upper School, Hammersmith, 71; Mr Justice Jacob, 58; Mr William Tudor John, senior partner, Allen and Overy, 55; Major-General Harry Knutton, former director-general, City and Guilds of London Institute, 78; Dr Dame Anne McLaren, FRS, zoologist, 72; Professor Wilfrid Mellers, composer, 85; Sir Oliver Millar, Surveyor Emeritus of the Queen's Pictures, 76; Professor Jack Morpurgo, professor of American literature, 81; Sir Richard Nichols, former Lord Mayor of London, 61; Professor Philip Poole-Wilson, cardiologist, 56; Mr Peter Schaufuss, ballet dancer and choreographer, 50; Dame Margaret Scott, founding director, Australian Ballet School, 77; Mr Derek Waring, actor, 69; Mr Morris West, novelist, 83; Mr Willie Wood, bowler, 61.

Latest wills

Harold Jack **Carter**, dancer and choreographer, of London, W14, left estate valued at £500,548 net.

Sir Alexander Kirkland **Cairncross**, Head of Government Economic Service 1964-69, left estate valued at £775,596 net.

Nancy, Viscountess **Portman**, of Blandford, Dorset, left estate valued at £271,694 net.

Memorial services

Sir Alan Hodgkin, OM, FRS
The Queen was represented by Sir Aaron Klug, OM, President of the Royal Society, and the Duke of Edinburgh by Professor Amartya Sen, FBA, Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, at a memorial service for Sir Alan Hodgkin, OM, FRS, President of the Royal Society 1970-1975 and Master of Trinity College, 1978-1984, held on Saturday in the college chapel. The Rev Dr Arnold Browne, Dean of Trinity College Chapel, officiated.

The Master read the lesson and Dr John Bradfield read from the works of William Penn. Sir Andrew Huxley, OM, FRS, gave an address.

Members of the family, Fellows of Trinity College, representatives of the Royal Society, former colleagues and friends were among those present.

Mr Leslie French
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Leslie French, actor and director, was held on Friday at St Paul's, Covent Garden. Prebendary Ron Swan of the Royal Foundation of St Katharine, Ratcliffe, officiated, assisted by Father John Foster, who also paid tribute.

Sir Donald Sinden read from an introduction written by Leslie French in Winifred F.E.C. Isaacs' book *Ben Greet and the Old Vic*. Mr Peter Sallis read *Fare Well* by Walter De la Mare.

Miss Janet Suzman read Shakespeare's "Make me a Willow Cabin at Your Gate" from *Twelfth Night* and the epilogue from *As You Like It*. Mr Bernard Brown read from *The Tempest*, and Mr Raymond Davies read "Fear no more the Heat of the Sun" from *Cymbeline*. A recording of Leslie French singing three Shakespearean songs was also played.

Ms Rachel Urdas, violin, played the Overture to *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by Mendelsonn/Muller.

Members of the family, friends and former colleagues were among those present.

Major-General L. de M. Thuillier
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Major-General Leslie de Malapert (Pete) Thuillier was held on Friday at the Church of St John the Baptist, Chirton, near Devizes, Wiltshire.

The Rev Gillian Baker officiated and read the lesson. Mrs Rosalind Adams, daughter, read *Afterwards* by Thomas Hardy and Mrs Wendy Trentham, daughter, read *Fare Well* by Walter De la Mare. Mr William Thuillier, son and Mr Paul Draper paid tribute.

Miss Julie Trentham, violin, Miss Alice Trentham, harp, and Mr Simon Trentham, cello, grandchildren, played during the service.

Luncheon

St George's Day Club
Air Vice-Marshal G.C. Lamb, President of the St George's Day Club, presided at the annual luncheon held on Friday at Grosvenor House in honour of St George. The American Ambassador and Air Marshal Sir John Curtiss, President of the British Berlin Air Lift Association, who gave an address to mark the 50th anniversary of the ending of the Berlin Air Lift, also spoke.

Sir Roger Bannister was presented by Mr Pete Goss with the club's annual award to a "True Englishman".

Service luncheons

Royal Hampshire Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Keatinge, Chairman of the Royal Hampshire Regiment Officers' Association, presided at the annual Gallipoli luncheon held on Saturday in Serle's House, Winchester.

East Surrey Regiment
Major-General G.A. White presided at a luncheon for Officers of the East Surrey Regiment held on Friday in the Officers' Mess of the London Regiment.



RICHARD LEA-HAIR

Artist rises to the challenge

After seven years Neil Harvey, 38, is nearing completion of his *Resurrection* in the apse of the Roman Catholic church of Our Lady and St Brigid in the Birmingham suburb of Northfield. Mr Harvey, who has survived on yearly grants of £4,000 to £5,000 from the archdiocese, used Italian Renaissance techniques to prepare the plaster for the 25ft by 16ft mural. "When I was asked to do it in 1992, I knew it had to possess a breathtaking impact but must retain its looks for hundreds of years," he said. "It has been a labour of love. It will be interesting to see people's reaction when Christ is finally finished."

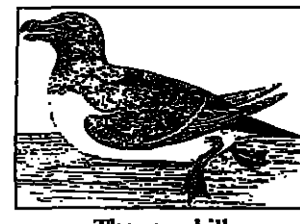
Nature notes

RAZORBILLS and guillemots are back on their cliff ledges, mainly along northern and western coasts. A roar comes up from the cliff as these upright black-and-white birds stand there making their harsh rolling cries. Each female will lay her solitary egg on the ledge next month.

Kittiwakes, which are delicate white gulls, circle in the air around them, and fulmars glide by on stiff wings.

In crevices at the base of the cliffs, the black shags are already sitting on eggs in their bulky nests of seaweed. Inland, nightingales are singing here and there in woods in the South of England, and housemartins are feeding over lakes before returning to the eaves which they will nest under.

White flowers are stealing over the countryside, as the hawthorn hedges come into snowy blossom, and cow parsley and garlic mustard open along the lanes.



The razorbill

On blackthorn hedges, the flowers are falling fast, and the white petals lie in the folds of the stinging nettles beneath them. More trees are coming into full leaf, including limes and sycamores: on oak trees, the first olive-green leaves are showing, with catkins hanging down among them. The black buds on the ash trees are still mostly closed.

DJM

Schools news

The Alice Ottley School, Worcester
The School Council announces the appointment of Mrs Morag Chapman, MA, as Headmistress of The Alice Ottley School from September 1999. Mrs Chapman is currently Deputy Head of St Mary's School, Cambridge.

The King's School, Canterbury
The Summer Term began on April 19. Dr Sarah Gurr, OKS, has been elected to the Governing Body. Mr Gavin Solomon has joined the School as Director of Information and Communications Technology. The Choral Concert, Verdi's Requiem, will be held in the Cathedral on Saturday, May 1. The Scholars' Dinner will take place on Sunday, May 16. The chief guest and speaker will be Mr Ralph Blumenau. An OKS Gaudy (leavers 1982-91) will be held on June 19 (for details contact the OKS Administrator on 01227 595669). King's Week: the annual Arts Festival, begins on Thursday, July 1. The Serenade in the Cloisters will be on July 1: the main play will be *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* (July 2, 3, 4 and 6): the Chamber Music Concert on July 4: the Jazz Concert on July 5 and the Gala Symphony Concert on July 7 (further details will be available from the Box Office on 01227 595639). The Commemoration of Benefactors Service will be held on Thursday, July 8, when the preacher will be Mr Christopher Everett, CBE. Speeches will be held in the Shirley Hall.

Malvern Girls' College
The Summer Term begins today. College Confirmation takes place on May 8. The Old Girls' Association weekend will be held May 22/23. Half term May 28-June 2. Founders' Day, Prize Giving and Commemoration Service will be held on Friday, July 9, speaker, Baroness Perry of Southwark. Term ends on Friday, July 9.

Wellington College, Crowthorne, Berkshire
The following Scholarships and Exhibitions have been awarded in 1999:

The Wellesley Scholarship
Christopher Bryan, Papplewick.
The Benson Scholarship
Thomas Wills, Milbourne Lodge.
The Fisher Scholarship
John Tress, Shrewsbury House.
The West Scholarship
Graeme Groom, Eagle House.
The Calverwell Scholarship — with special merit in Maths & Science
Conal McLean, Hall Grove.
The Copeland Scholarship — with special merit in Languages
James Sowerby, Milbourne Lodge.
Governors' Scholarships
Maxim Poliakov, Lambrook Haileybury: Kenneth Groom, Eagle House: Oliver Toovey, Eagle House.
Music and Academic Scholarship
Andrew Barns-Graham, St Andrew's, Woking.
Music Scholarships
George Clark, Swanbourne House: Mark Cooper-Jones, Aldro School.
The Art Scholarship
Benjamin Davis, Rokeby: proxime accessit: James Vaulkhard, Brambletye.
The Design and Technology Scholarship
Timothy Green, Yateley Manor: proxime accessit: Lucas London, Kings' College Junior School.
Other Exhibitions
William Price, Papplewick: Gregory Dickens — with special merit in Science, Eagle House: William Katzler, Aldro School: Alexander Plough, The Mall.
Academic Awards for Girls in Sixth Form
Anne Kirtley, Sir William Perkins's School, Rebecca Davies, Sir William Perkins's School: Esther Davies, Sir William Perkins's School: Katerina Vittozzi, Brigidine Convent.
Music Awards for Girls in Sixth Form
Rebecca Yong, Brigidine Convent: Claire Woolf, The Abbey School: Anne Kirtley (proxime accessit), Sir William Perkins's School.

Wellington College is a Registered Charity which exists to provide education.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr H. Crichton-Stuart and Miss K.A. Reid
The engagement is announced between Hugh, younger son of the late Lord James Crichton-Stuart and of Mrs Peter Knatchbull-Hugessen, of Ropley House, Ropley, Hampshire, and Kerry-Anne, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Leo Reid, of Kenton-on-Sea, Eastern Cape, South Africa.

Mr B.R.W. Draper and Miss C.L.D. Harvey
The engagement is announced between Bradley, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Robert Draper, of Haywards Heath, and Carolyne, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Harvey, of Upminster.

Mr O.T. Hall and Miss M.A. Jones
The engagement is announced between Oswald Terence, son of Colonel O.T. Hall, retd, OBE, of Etherdwick Grange, East Yorkshire, and Mrs C.J. Hall, of Welling, Kent, and Meinir Ann, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Hermon Jones, of Llangennech, Carmarthenshire.

Mr R.C. Mathewson and Miss S.C. Adams
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs J.I. Mathewson, of Perthshire, Scotland, and Sarah, younger daughter of the late Mr Hugh Adams and of Mrs Christopher Scott, of Little Bookham, Surrey.

Mr R.T. Samuel and Miss S. Avery
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr John Samuel, of Bristol, and Mrs Judie Samuel, of Weybridge, and Sarah, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Avery, of Leighterton, Gloucestershire.

Service dinners

Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia)
Lieutenant-Colonel J.W. Sage, Commanding The Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia), presided at the Regimental audit dinner held on Saturday at The Castle, Monmouth. Colonel A.F. George, Joint Honorary Colonel, was among those present.

RAF Dinner Club
Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Johns, Chief of the Air Staff, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the RAF Dinner Club held on Friday at the club. Air Commodore P.A. Crawford presided. Air Chief Marshal Sir Thomas Kennedy and Air Chief Marshal Sir Patrick Hine were among those present.

Dinners

Garrick Club
The members of the Garrick Club held their Annual Dinner last night. Mr Ronald Harwood, CBE, FRSL, was Guest of Honour and the toast of the guest was proposed by Mr Tom Courtenay. Mr Anthony Butcher, QC, presided.

Royal Society of St George
His Honour Michael Chism, Chairman of the City of London branch of the Royal Society of St George, presided at the annual St George's Day dinner held at Guildhall on Friday.

Marriages

Mr I.J.A. Garel-Jones and Miss K.E. Briscoe
The marriage took place on Saturday, April 17, at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, of Mr Ivan Garel-Jones, third son of Lord and Lady Garel-Jones, of London SW1, and Miss Kate Briscoe, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Arthur Briscoe, of Caversham, Reading.

Mr C.G. James and Miss C.E. Ropner
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Gregory's, Bedale, North Yorkshire, of Mr Christopher James, son of Captain and Mrs Jeremy James, of Julians Park, Hertfordshire, to Miss Carolyn Ropner, eldest daughter of Sir John Ropner, of Thorp Perrow, North Yorkshire, and the Marchioness of Linlithgow, of Bryngwyn, Powys. The Bishop of Ripon officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Thomas, Rose and Isabel Holland-Hibbert, and Alexander and Miranda Simpson. The Hon Francis Johnstone was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr G.P.W. Foster and Miss N.S.K. Mackenzie-Charrington
The marriage took place on Friday at St Paul's, Knightsbridge, of Mr Guy Foster, elder son of Mr Euan Foster, of Parsons Green, London, and Lady Caroline Tahany, of New Walk, Leicester, to Miss Nicola Mackenzie-Charrington, daughter of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Mackenzie-Charrington, of Bighton, Hampshire. The Rev W.D.F. Gulliford officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Katie Moran, Camilla Wordie, Laurence Frank, Archie Law and Georgina Adda. Mr Jasper Sabey was best man.

A reception was held at the Berkeley Hotel and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Mr J.C.T. Francis and Miss V.C. Poole
The marriage took place at St Mary's Church, Stoke D'Abernon, on Saturday, April 24, 1999, between Mr James Francis, son of Mr and Mrs David Francis, of Lowdham, Nottinghamshire, and Miss Vanessa Poole, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs David Poole, of Cobham, Surrey. The Rev David Vincent officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Antonia, Victoria and Olivia Murray. Dr William Francis was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent in Zimbabwe and Mauritius.

Mr R.C. Nott and Miss Y. Inoue
The marriage took place at Dukes Hotel, London, on Saturday, April 24, of Robert, son of Mr and Mrs Robin Nott, of King's Lynn, Norfolk, to Yuko, daughter of Mr and Mrs Shozo Inoue, of Yokohama.

The bride was attended by Louise Burton, of Needingworth, Huntingdon. Mr Martin Nott, of Dorking, Surrey, was best man.

The honeymoon is being spent in Florida Keys.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Leonardo da Vinci, painter, sculptor, architect and engineer, Vinci, 1452; John James Audubon, naturalist and artist, Les Cayes, Santo Domingo, 1785; Artemus Ward (pen-name of Charles Farrar Browne), writer, Waterford, Maine, 1834; Michel Fokine, ballet dancer and choreographer, St Petersburg, 1880; Rudolf Hess, Nazi war criminal, Alexandria, Egypt, 1894; John Grierson, documentary film producer, Perth, 1898.

DEATHS: Karsten Niebuhr, explorer, Meldorf, Holstein, 1815; Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson, novelist and dramatist, Paris, 1910; Carl Bosch, chemist, Nobel laureate 1931, Heidelberg, 1940; Sidney James, actor, Sunderland, 1976; Dame Cicely Courtneidge, actress, London, 1980; William (Count) Basie, jazz bandleader and pianist, Florida, 1984.

The Great Plague began in London, 1665.

John Wilkes Booth, actor, assassin of President Lincoln (April 14), was shot dead by troops, 1865.

The Duke of York (later King George VI) married Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon in Westminster Abbey, 1923.

An accident at the Soviet nuclear power station at Chernobyl led to far-reaching radiation, 1986.

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Our God, your name will be praised for ever and ever. You are all-powerful, and you know everything. You control human events - you give rulers their power and take it away, and you are the source of wisdom and knowledge. Daniel 2.20-21 (CEV).

BIRTHS

BATT - On April 16th 1999, to Rosabelle (née Brand) and Robert, a daughter, Isobel Beatrice, a sister for Laura.

TROTMAN - On 19th April 1999 to Adele (née Harper) and Peter, a wonderful son Elliott Peter.

WILLIS FLEMING - On April 14th, to Melanie (née Lawson) and Somerset, a son, Ralph David, a brother for Jake and Ella.

DEATHS

ANDERSON - May Scott. Died tragically at home on 16th April 1999. Aged 87 years. She will be missed by all relatives and her many friends. Private cremation at her request. All enquiries to Daniel Robinson & Sons Ltd., 3 Bullfields, Sawbridgeworth, Herts. Tel: 01279 722476.

BINNS - Dr. Kenneth John Binns D Sc, F I E E. Professor of electrical engineering, university of Liverpool on Wednesday 21st April. Much loved husband of Patricia, father of Louise and Jane and grandfather of Olivia. Funeral service at St. Josephs R.C. Church, Saxon Road, Birkdale, Southport on Tuesday April 27th at 12 noon. Followed by interment. Enquiries to F. J. Gibb Ltd. Funeral Directors. Tel: 01704 551666

BARNETT - Richard John, dearly loved husband, father, grandfather and brother, died in Velindre Hospital, Whitchurch, Cardiff on Wednesday 21st April after a long illness borne with great courage and dignity. Funeral service to be held at St Illtuds Church, Llantwit Major on Friday 30th April at 10.30am followed by strictly private cremation. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu to Cancer Research Wales, Velindre Hospital, Whitchurch, Cardiff. Enquiries to W. James and Sons, tel: 01446 710096.

BLOWFIELD - Drummond, on Monday 19th April peacefully at home. Much loved husband of Jo and adored father of Stephanie, Nicholas and Tim. Funeral service at Church of St Mary, Harefield, Middlesex on Friday 30th April at 12 noon. Family flowers only but donations welcome for cancer research, enquiries c/o Chiltern Funerals Ltd. 01753 892900.

CAIR - Sheila on 22nd April 1999 in Worthing Hospital. Widow of Stanley, mother of Judith, formerly of Monkton, Heathfield. All enquiries to H.D. Tribe Ltd. 130 Broadwater Road, Worthing. 01903 234516.

COOPER - Margaret Eileen (née Magill) aged 83, suddenly but peacefully at St. Mary's Hospital Paddington on Friday 23rd April 1999 Beloved wife for over 51 years of James (Jimmy) Cooper. Mother and grandmother Private cremation. No flowers please. Donations if desired to the British Heart Foundation, 14 Fitzhardinge Street W1.

ENGLISH - Richard peacefully in the arms of his beloved wife Joan, after a brave and long fight against cancer. Dearly loved, he is deeply missed by his children Nick, Bettina, Marco, Suzanne, grandchildren, family and friends. Funeral service at Holy Trinity, Roehampton at 2.30pm on Thursday 29th April 1999 followed by a private burial. Family flowers only. Donations in his memory to Royal Marsden Hospital Charity c/o T.H. Sanders and Sons, 12-14 Medfield Street, Roehampton, London SW15 4JZ.

GREEN - The Reverend Canon Dennis John, on 21st April at his home, The Black Hostelry, Ely. Wife of Sylvia and much loved father of Judith and Caroline. Funeral at Ely Cathedral on Wednesday 28th April at 1.45 pm. Donations, if desired, to the Cathedral Office, Ely Cathedral.

KEARNS - Patrick James Anthony, aged 76 died suddenly but peacefully at home on Thursday 15th April. Dearly loved husband to Topsy. Father to Jeremy, Fiona and Jonathan and Grandfather to five marvellous Grandchildren. Funeral has already taken place on Friday 23rd April. Donations, if desired, to the British Heart Foundation.

LOTT - Queenie M. Barbara, aged 91. Peacefully at home on April 21st. Beloved wife of the late Harry C. Lott. Loving mother of Brian and much loved grandmother of Julia, Diana and Gordon. Funeral at St Michael's, Tenterden, 1 pm on April 28th. Family flowers only but donations if desired to RNIB c/o T.W. Fuggle, 20 Ashford Road, Tenterden, TN30 6QU.

LYNNER - On April 22nd peacefully at home Jytte, much loved wife of the late Halfdan, mother to Margrete and grandma to Wilfrid, Celia, Jack, Bernard and Daphne. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held on Friday April 30th at St Mary's Church, The Boltons, London SW10 at 11.30 am.

PAGET - Margaret, beloved wife of W.D. (Dickie) Paget and mother of Elizabeth and Diana, died peacefully at Forest Holme Hospice on 20th April 1999 aged 73, after illness most courageously borne. Funeral Service at Wimborne Minster on Friday 30th April at 2 pm, to which all are welcome, followed by committal at Poole Crematorium to be attended by family members only. As a flower arranger of long standing she always expressed a wish for flowers in her lifetime, but not at her death. Donations, if wished, payable either to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund or to the Walford Mill Medical Centre Equipment Fund c/o Charles Small & Son F/D, 15 West Street, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 1JR.

ROGERS - Jane Elisabeth (née Francis), peacefully on Friday, 23rd April. Much loved mother to Tim, Richard & Jonathan. Widow of the late Squadron Leader John Rogers. Grandmother to Nicholas, Christopher & Georgina. Jane's funeral will take place at All Saints Church, Chelsworth on Wednesday, 28th April, at 12 noon Donations for the Stroke Association may be sent to W A Deacon Funeral Services, Norman Way, Lavenham, CO10 9PY

SEIFFERT - John Albert (Jas) of Milford-on-Sea, Hampshire, peacefully at home on 21st April aged 98. Widower of Lilly, father of Betty, Erica and Johnny, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral at Bournemouth Crematorium on Thursday, 29th April at 3.30 pm. No flowers by request, donations if wished to Oakhaven Hospice, c/o Diamond & Son Funeral Directors, Lymington, SO41 9DN.

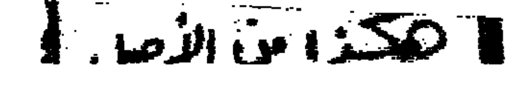
TINNE - Dinah Clare (Pam), peacefully at Emlaghmore in her 90th year. Funeral St. Mary's, Roundstone, on Tuesday 27th April at 12 noon.

VERNON-JONES - E.S. (V.J.) died after a short illness on 17th April 1999. Beloved husband of Elisabeth, much loved father of Priscilla, David and Mary (deceased), grandfather of Henrietta and Richard. Private family funeral has been held.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

KESSELER - Sydney Joseph, died April 25th 1989. "Fear no more the heat of the sun, nor the furious winter's rages". In loving memory. Michael and Peter.

PARKE - Herbert Edward MBE, always remembered and always missed. The Parke, Timperley and Johnson families.



ARTHUR BOYD

Arthur Boyd, AC, OBE, artist, died in Melbourne on April 24 aged 78. He was born on July 24, 1920.

It has been said that, after Picasso, Arthur Boyd's *oeuvre* is the most massive and varied in the history of 20th-century painting. His chief theme was the divine frenzy of love.

If recognition of his artistic stature was slow in Europe despite his huge output, it was partly because he painted pictures with subject matter when abstraction was in the ascendant, and partly because his combination of quiet modesty, acute intelligence and passionate art was not for the salon or cocktail party. He lived compactly in the satisfying circle of an artistic family, and yet he travelled constantly. He was a rare 20th-century visionary who dealt with great themes, both personal and public, without ever losing his sense of place.

Arthur Merric Bloomfield Boyd was born in Murrumbeena, then just outside Melbourne, to a family which had emigrated from Britain in the early 19th century, and which has now produced four generations of artists, writers and musicians. His father, Merric, was one of Australia's first studio potters. His mother, a painter and Christian Scientist, provided an artistic and religious upbringing for her five children, who all became painters, sculptors or potters.

Boyd left primary school at 14 to work in a paint factory owned by an uncle, and briefly attended evening classes in art at the National Gallery of Victoria. In 1936, while living with his grandfather, himself a painter, he began to paint landscapes, well enough to have his first exhibition at 17. These were mainly broadly painted Impressionist views in grey-blues and ochres, but there was already a boldness of attack which was soon to become more Expressionist.

During the 1940s, some of the most urgent, passionate, imaginative and humane art anywhere in the world was being painted in Melbourne, Australia. It was as if only at the furthest distance from the bloodshed in Europe could the world's agonies be handled. The year 1937 had been crucial. In that year, Joel Bergner, a 17-year-old European Jew who had lived in the Warsaw ghetto and who painted in a style influenced by Picasso's Blue Period, arrived in Australia as a refugee. The Russian Cossack Danila Vassilieff, who had fought in the First World War, reached Melbourne by way of the Black Sea, India, China, Queensland, then Brazil, the West Indies, England, France, and Spain; the self-taught Albert Tucker was picking up his own style of Expressionism; Noel Counihan was painting urban scenes with a strong social content, and John Perceval was painting psychological dramas.



Arthur Boyd in Hampstead in 1967, at work on the last of 35 large pictures about King Nebuchadnezzar, for the Adelaide Arts Festival

All these men, along with Boyd, came together to produce what has become known as the "Angry Decade", 1937-47, throwing the agonies of a suffering world at an Australian society that was still trying to remain isolationist.

Boyd joined the Australian Army Service Corps in 1939, working in Melbourne and Bendigo as a cartographic field surveyor until 1944, but managed to participate in the exhibitions of the Contemporary Art Society from 1942 to 1946. Meanwhile he was developing a personal style, combining Surrealism, symbolism, social realism and Expressionism to create a world of lovers and cripples, beasts and monsters, in scenes of suffering, passionate love and redemption.

After leaving the Army he married Yvonne Lennie, a former art student, in 1945, and set up a pottery business with his sister's husband, the painter John Perceval. In the same year the Myer Gallery requested the removal of one of Boyd's pictures, *Two Lovers: The Good Shepherd*, from the Contemporary Art Society Exhibition on grounds of obscenity.

He now began a profound study of the art of Bosch, Breughel and Rembrandt, including not only their subject matter and composition but also the technical beauties of their paintwork. With tempera and oil, sometimes over chalk grounds, and with an abundance of precise detail and mellow radiance of colour, he painted *The Mockers* and *The Mourners* in 1945, and in 1946-47 produced a *tour de force* of Breughelian and Bosch-like breadth, *The Mining Town*.

Less tendentious than his paintings of religious themes, sexual passion, guilt and betrayal were his Berwick and Wimmera landscapes of 1948-49, which won him the respect of Australia's cultural establishment. A series of murals for his uncle, the novelist Martin Boyd, were followed in 1950 by work on ceramic tiles, and sculpture such as *Saul and David* of 1953.

In 1951 Boyd travelled to Central Australia, where the poverty and dereliction of the Aboriginal people of the interior corresponded to the maimed and deprived creatures who already peopled his psychodramas of the redemptive powers of love. The trip had a strong impression on Boyd, as he showed in a series of paintings from 1956 entitled *Love, Marriage and Death of a Half-Caste* (often known as the *Bride* series). These Chagall-like allegories feature a part-Aboriginal stockman, who is joined by a naked, spectral bride in a forest clearing. The first cycle of paintings on this theme was shown at the Australian Galleries in 1959, and filmed by Patrick Ryan and Tim Burstall, bringing Boyd to international attention.

After taking part in the Antipodean Exhibition that year, Boyd left for London with his family. They rented a house in Hampstead Lane as a base for touring Europe, and the next year, 1960 — the year that Sidney Nolan exhibited his *Leda and the Swan* series at the Mattiesen Gallery — Boyd had his first London show, at the Zwemmer Gallery. The catalogue had a foreword by Bryan Robertson, who was to advance Boyd's reputation with his exhibition of *Recent Australian Painting* at the Whitechapel Gallery in 1961, and a full retrospective of Boyd's work at the same influential address in 1962.

Boyd next conquered the theatre. A commission for decor and costumes for Stravinsky's ballet *Renard* at the Edinburgh Festival and later at Sadler's Wells was followed in 1963 by stage designs for the ballet *Electra*, with music by Malcolm Arnold and choreography by Robert Helpmann, at Covent Garden and later at the Met in New York.

Like his close friend Sidney Nolan, with whom he was often linked, Boyd found Europe a great stimulus. The feeling of distance which had launched the "Angry Decade" in Australia was for a time reversed, and Boyd vigorously pursued his Australian themes in Britain.

Then, after several years devoted to the *Half-Caste* cycle, his erotic fantasies of star-crossed, wind-blown lovers — as if in some underworld of the shades from Virgil or Dante — took on the myths and metamorphoses of antiquity and the Renaissance. In 1966 he began the *Nebuchadnezzar* series; in 1968 he made lithographs on the theme of *St Francis of Assisi*, and a collection of tapestries and pastels on the same theme followed.

During the 1970s he published etchings, lithographs and aquatints on *Lysistrata* and Narcissus, and worked on tapestries of Nebuchadnezzar. He also illustrated Peter Porter's *Jonah* (1973) and *The Lady and the Unicorn* (1975), and Janet Dalley's translations of Pushkin's *Fairy Tales*.

All these works were punctuated by exhibitions at Fischer Fine Art in London, and long and frequent visits to Australia for an increasing number of exhibitions. In 1973 Boyd bought an estate on the Shoalhaven River, where he founded an expanding family enclave, and which became the inspiration for many subsequent sketches and paintings. In Europe, Boyd's base from 1975 was Ramsholt, near Woodbridge in Suffolk, and he also acquired a house near Palaio in Tuscany. Although he loved to travel, he was terrified of flying, and always insisted on going by ship.

Responses to the landscape and natural events around Shoalhaven took more of Boyd's attention in the 1980s, when he acquired another house on the Shoalhaven River, at Bundanon, near Nowra, New South Wales. In 1984 he received a commission for a tapestry for the Parliament House Authority in Canberra, and another to paint 16 canvases for the foyer of the State Theatre at the Victoria Arts Centre, Melbourne.

Meanwhile, his paintings were growing larger, fiercer in colour and broader in their references to contemporary society. This meant that an artist who had long swum against the tide of fashion found himself right at the centre of the younger New Expressionists in the 1980s.

In 1993 Boyd and Sir Sidney Nolan (his brother-in-law since 1976) gave their extensive properties at Bundanon to the Australian public for the creation of a national arts and environment centre. The landscape, including Pulpit Rock, features in many of Boyd's late paintings, and the trust provides places for artists in residence. It is also developing exchange programmes, especially between England, Asia and Australia.

Arthur Boyd was appointed OBE in 1970, AO in 1979 and AC in 1992. He was voted Australian of the Year in 1995.

He is survived by his wife, and by their son and two daughters, all three of whom are painters.

SIR JAMES COBBAN

Sir James Cobban, CBE, former Headmaster of Abingdon School, died on April 19 aged 88. He was born on September 14, 1910.



JAMES COBBAN was one of the last of a generation of headmasters who devoted most of their working lives to a single school. Having learnt much about leadership and administration during the war, he also made a wide contribution to public life.

Born in Scunthorpe, James Macdonald Cobban won a scholarship from Pocklington School to Jesus College, Cambridge, where he took a first in both parts of the Classical Tripos (with the highest mark except for his contemporary, Enoch Powell) and was both Thirwall Medallist and Gladstone Prizeman.

He taught at King Edward VI School, Southampton, and at Dulwich College before serving in the Directorate of Military Intelligence and becoming, as a Lieutenant-Colonel, a Staff Officer with the Control Commission in Germany. After the war he returned briefly to Dulwich, before becoming headmaster of Abingdon, then an undistinguished school of 250 pupils, in 1947. By the time "The Boss" retired in 1970, it had more than 700 pupils.

Referred to by one general as the best staff officer he had ever had, Cobban arrived at Abingdon with something of a reputation as an administrator. It was said that the filing system he introduced to the school was based on what he had observed of German military efficiency. Under him, the area of the school's buildings doubled, and when the quatercentenary was celebrated in 1963, Abingdon had become one of the major direct grant schools in the country.

He needed little sleep, and his energy and ideas never flagged. He remained in the forefront of curriculum development, with innovations in maths, science, classics and music. And he understood the claim to greater freedom among pupils in the 1960s.

He always knew every boy in the school, and took even the youngest seriously. He was the favourite subject of his own jokes, and happily played up his most easily caricatured mannerisms.

Though small in stature, he had utter self-assurance and was quite unselfconscious, whether observed in his dressing-gown returning from his morning swim, or taking whole-school assembly in the open air on a cold winter's day, or teaching Greek with a combination of Μουσικη and Γυμναστικη (music and movement) which would have delighted Plato — and even pleased the Third Form.

Retirement made little odds to him, as he continued to be of service. He was co-chairman of the Direct Grant Schools Joint Committee and deputy chairman of the Schools' Governing Bodies Association; chairman of the governors of St Helen's, Abingdon, and a governor of Stowe, Wellington College and others. He chaired the Abingdon bench of magistrates and served on the Oxfordshire Magistrates' Courts Committee, and that of the Thames Valley Police Authority.

He represented the Diocese of Oxford in the House of Laity on the General Synod and was vice-president of the Oxford Diocesan Synod, as well as chairman of the Laity Challenge Fund. He was one of those responsible for selecting ordinands for the Church of England and was himself a lay reader. He officiated in a group of six Dorset parishes from 1986 to 1997.

Cobban, who had become a JP in 1950, became Deputy Lieutenant of Berkshire in 1966 and, under reorganisation, of Oxfordshire in 1974. He was appointed CBE in 1971 and knighted in 1982. In 1986 a party was held to celebrate 50 years of continuous publication of his Latin reader *Civis Romanus*, which he wrote with a colleague at Dulwich and which had sold nearly half a million copies (paying for the education of four daughters). The two authors and the original commissioning editor were all present.

He married Lorna Marlow in 1942, but she died in 1961, and their only son also died when very young. His sister gave up her job as a primary school headmistress to support him at Abingdon. He is survived by her and his four daughters.

LORD KILLANIN

Lord Killanin, former President of the International Olympic Committee, died yesterday aged 84. He was born on July 30, 1914.

MICHAEL MORRIS, 3rd Baron Killanin, was a versatile Irishman who achieved distinction in several different spheres, not least as President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in one of its most turbulent periods, 1972-80.

He came from an old Roman Catholic landed and merchant family, long settled in Galway. His grandfather had been Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, and later a law lord who was created a hereditary peer. His father was killed in action in 1914, so Killanin succeeded as a peer while still a minor in 1927 on the death of his uncle.

He was educated at Eton, Magdalene College, Cambridge (where he was president of Footlights) and the Sorbonne. As he had edited *Varsity*, it was a natural progression for him to enter journalism. He was a war correspondent in the Sino-Japanese War, and later a lively political columnist with the *Daily Mail*. He was also one of the authors of *Four Days*, which described the reaction in various capital cities to the Munich Crisis.

During the war he served with the Queen's Westminsters and took part in the D-Day landings. Afterwards he married Sheila Dunlop, and returned to Ireland. He was determined not to be separated from the mainstream of Irish life. His few speeches in the Lords had shown him sympathetic to Irish nationalist aspirations.

He worked on many committees, was a director of several companies, and produced a number of films with John Ford. For many years he was president of the Irish Club in London, and he also helped to promote the Dublin Festival Theatre. He also found time to write. His book on Godfrey Kneller, while not a scholarly contribution, served to revive interest in a figure overshadowed by his contemporaries Gainsborough and Reynolds. Killanin also collaborated with Michael Duignan on *The Shell Guide to Ireland*.

As an Olympic administrator he displayed considerable diplomatic gifts. He was president of the Irish Olympic Council from 1950, and a member of the IOC from 1952. In 1966 he became chief of protocol, and two years later he rose to be vice-president. He stood for a modern, flexible approach (not least on amateur status) and his patrician background helped him to push through reforms. His philosophy was to put the competitor first and to ensure that the Games were open to the maximum possible number of athletes. What he really wanted was a reduction of nationalism in the Games, and he was for a long time a lone voice advocating the abolition of flags and anthems. He was also a consistent advocate of the admission of China, which he finally achieved.

It had been thought that Killanin's predecessor as President of the IOC, Avery Brundage, who held office for 20 years, had had a difficult time, but Killanin's experience, though spanning only eight years, was even more trying. He hardly had time to savour his election to the presidency at Munich in 1972 before the Games there were marred by the tragedy that overtook the Israeli team at the hands of the Palestinian guerrillas — an early reminder of his unnerving responsibilities.

Later that year a crisis arose over the 1976 Winter Olympics, when Denver, the city originally chosen, withdrew. This was unprecedented and could have presented the new President with an insoluble problem had the Austrians not come to the rescue with an offer to hold the Games again at Innsbruck, where the 1964 Winter Olympics had been held.

Nevertheless, 1976 was a severe trial because little went right for the Montreal Games that summer. Industrial action left the preparations seriously behind schedule and created doubts about whether the city could be ready in time. In the end all was well so far as the facilities were concerned, but two political developments offered new threats.

Late in the day, the Canadian Government refused to accept citizens of Taiwan under the official Olympic name of the Republic of China, in conformity with United Nations transfer of recognition to Beijing. The Taiwanese were supported by the US, which at one time threatened to withdraw. Neither side would yield, and the Games went ahead without them. The US did not go through with its boycott, but an even bigger one took effect. Many African nations and their sympathisers packed their bags and left as a protest at the admission of New Zealand, who had incurred displeasure by sharing a rugby tour with South Africa.

Before the Games of 1980 came round, Killanin achieved one cherished ambitions, when a formula was found for the readmission of China to the Olympic movement. Beijing dropped its precondition that it would rejoin only if Taiwan were excluded as a separate entity, based on the argument that Taiwan was a part of China and that its citizens should compete under the mainland flag. The IOC decided to recognise two separate Chinese Olympic Committees.

But Taipei remained hostile to this new arrangement and stubbornly sent a team to Lake Placid in the name of the Republic of China rather than the new title wished upon it, that of the Chinese Taipei National Olympic Committee. When its team was refused admission to the Olympic Village, Taiwan successfully sought court approval for the ruling to be overturned.

Lake Placid duly lodged an appeal, supported by the US, which claimed that if the judgment were allowed to stand, the American position in international sport would be compromised. The Americans' attitude at Lake Placid had changed diametrically from that at Montreal.

But all this paled beside the problems presented by Moscow in the summer of 1980. There had been criticism of the decision in 1974 to award the Games to the Soviet capital. Indignation overflowed into anger when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan at the end of 1979. Personal indignation was supplanted by presidential hostility in America and expressions of severe disapproval elsewhere, notably in Britain and Australia.

President Carter's efforts to prevent an American team from competing in Moscow were successful, but Margaret Thatcher's attempt to keep Britain in step were a failure, with the exception of a few sports of Conservative flavour. In all more than 80 of the 150 or so nations in the Olympic movement competed in Moscow. Of the remainder, about 40 supported the boycott and others stayed away for other reasons.

Killanin had averted the worst, and realised his ambition of bringing China back into the Games, as well as improving the IOC finances, but his touching faith in the power of sport to promote peace was, in the end, disappointed. His memoirs, *My Olympic Years*, were particularly critical of Jimmy Carter.

He is survived by his wife, three sons and a daughter.

ON THIS DAY

April 26, 1915

For five days a battle raged for possession of a small hill on the Ypres front. Attack and counter-attack followed in quick succession to gain a piece of land about 250 yards by 200. Hill 60 was finally taken by the British but with heavy losses.

BRITISH GRIP ON HILL 60

During the last few days the area south-east of Ypres has continued to be the centre of interest, and the narrative of the fighting there will be given up to the night of Wednesday, the 21st.

Hill 60, of which the Germans held the crest, was seamed with innumerable trenches and saps. At 7pm on April 17 seven mines were fired simultaneously under the German trenches. The interval that elapsed before our assault took place was — to use the words of one soldier — "like a transformation scene." Trenches, parapets, sandbags disappeared and the whole surface of the ground assumed strange shapes — here torn into huge craters, there forming mounds of fallen debris.

As the reports of explosions died away, and while the dense columns of smoke and dust still hung in the air, our men, led by their officers, sprang from the trenches and rushed across the intervening space of some 40 to 60 yards between our line and the gaping craters before them, the front covered by the attack being only some 250 yards in length.

Many of the German soldiers were surprised in their shirt sleeves. Stunned by the explosions, suddenly subjected to a rain of hand-grenades, thrown by our bombing parties, they gave way to panic. Cursing and shouting, they were falling over one another and fighting in their hurry to gain the exits into the communication trenches; and some of those in rear, maddened by terror, were driving their bayonets into the bodies of their comrades in front.

Of all this our infantry had but a momentary glimpse before they fell upon the enemy with the bayonet, burst through the maze of trenches, poured into the craters, and pressed on down the communication trenches until at last they were stopped by barricades defended by bomb throwers. The first line of trenches over the front assaulted was captured in a few minutes, with little difficulty, and 15 prisoners fell into our hands. But it was then that the real struggle began, for the Germans quickly recovered from their surprise.

From our line the hill is a salient exposed to fire from three sides, and it was only a few moments before the German gunners took advantage of this fact and opened fire. Soon the whole position became obscured in the smoke of bursting shells. Meanwhile our batteries had begun to support the attack, and a terrific artillery fire was maintained far into the night.

NEWS

Racist bombers 'will strike again'

■ Police fear the neo-Nazi racists who planted nail bombs in Brixton and Brick Lane will strike again in other cities, and possibly against Jewish targets.

As Scotland Yard drafted extra detectives into the anti-terrorist branch yesterday and stepped up the hunt for the bombers, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said there was a constant danger until the "extremely evil, unpleasant" criminals and terrorists were caught"..Pages 1, 4, 5, 20, 21

Refugees find a haven in Britain

■ A small boy stepped hestitantly off a set of aircraft steps to become the first Kosovan from the Balkan refugee camps to arrive on British soil. The unfamiliar airport at Leeds and the waiting pressmen were all a little too much for Alben Maksuti, 4, and he needed a guiding hand from a member of the ground staff to steer him towards an airport bus and a future which nobody can yet predict.............Pages 1, 8, 9, 10, 20

Clinton fumbles

An unexpected threat to world security cropped up when President Clinton forgot to take with him the briefcase containing the secret electronic launch codes for US nuclear missiles......................Page 1

Hague defiant

William Hague delivered a "like it, or lump it" message to his Tory critics as he prepared to take the break with his party's Thatcherite past a stage further. He said if colleagues' feathers had been ruffled, they would have to "get unruffled ....Page 2

Love child

Woody Allen and his young bride, Soon-Yi Previn, played the proud parents at the weekend when they paraded their new baby girl up New York's fashionable Madison Avenue in a pram ....Page 3

DJ suspended

Johnnie Walker, 55, the Radio 2 disc-jockey, has been suspended from his job after allegations that he took cocaine and offered to supply prostitutes....................Page 3

New battle group

Britain is expected to increase its military commitment to the Kosovo operation by a significant amount with a third 2,000-man armoured battle group, another squadron of eight Harrier GR7s and an extra frigate..........Page 8

Break with the past

The decline of the Commonwealth's idealism has led a think-tank to propose that the Commonwealth Secretariat should be relocated from London to Cape Town or Delhi, and the Prince of Wales should be replaced by an elected Commonwealth president when the Queen's reign ends.... Page 11

Lawyers to pay

LAWYERS who try to drag out litigation will face swingeing financial penalties. The move makes it easier for people to defend a wide range of civil claims........Page 12

'Stop Kennedy' plan

Leading Liberal Democrats are preparing to step aside to allow Menzies Campbell to become the main "stop Charles Kennedy" candidate in the party's leadership race.......................................Page 12

Traders' plight

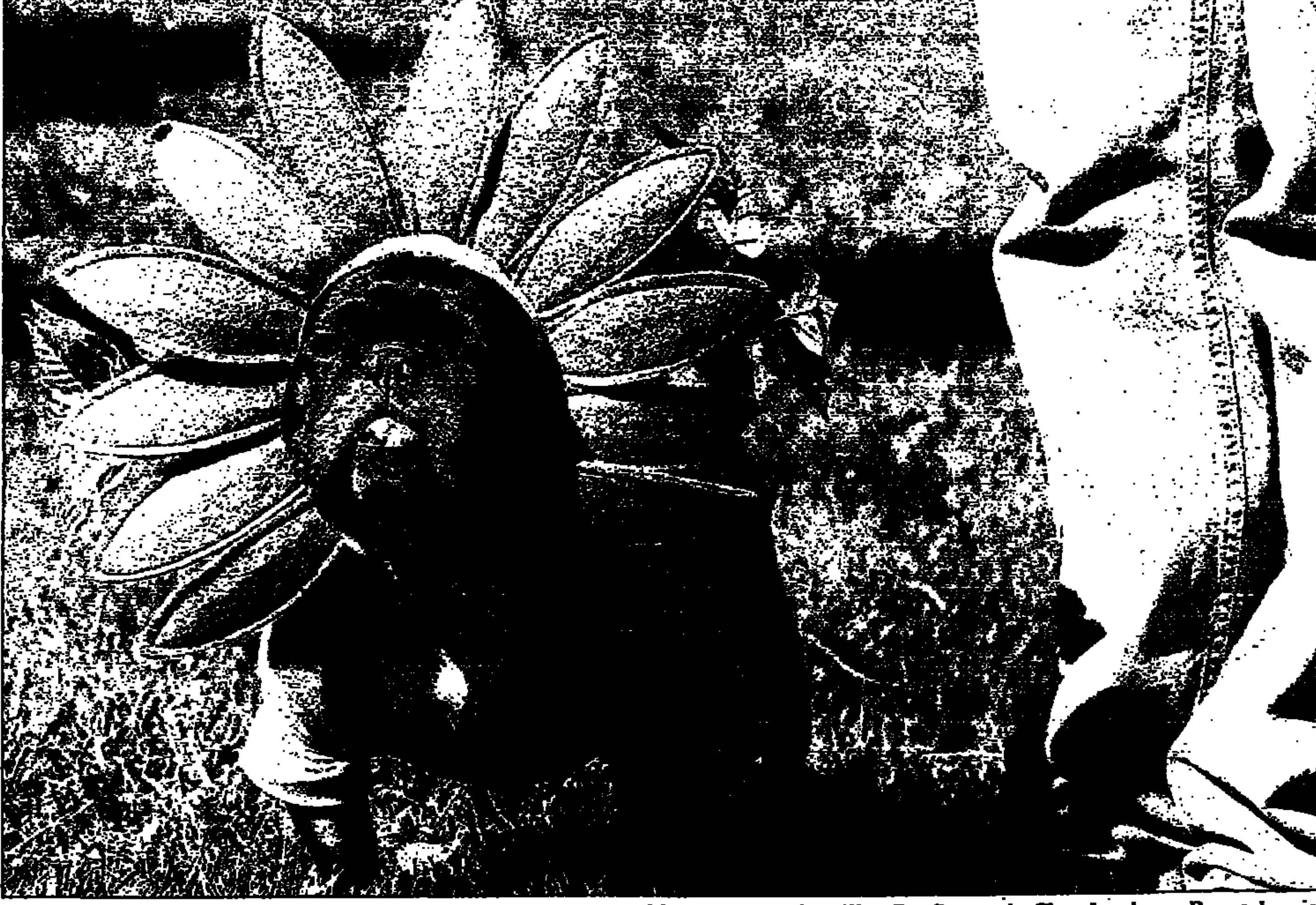
Specialist cheese makers are threatening to close their businesses and even to move abroad unless the Government's "hygiene police" relaxes enforcement of strict dairy controls.......... Page 13

Murder was planned

A meticulous diary found at the weekend shows that the Columbine High School shootings were planned for up to a year down to the last detail, including hand signals used by the gunmen to maximise their carnage..........Page 14

Back from the grave to raise BBC

The TV comedy *One Foot in the Grave* is being raised from the dead to help solve the BBC's sitcom crisis. BBC executives have commissioned a new series of the highly successful show, the first for five years, only weeks after Peter Salmon, the BBC 1 controller, announced that the corporation was killing off the "suburban net-curtain comedy"....................................Page 7



Lucy, a French bulldog, awaits her turn in the best-dressed competition in the Spring Fling Pet Contest in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

BUSINESS

BT expands: British Telecom and its American partner are spending £1.2 billion to take a stake in a Japanese telephone network.....Page 48

Carpetbagging: Investors and borrowers of the Bradford & Bingley building society are expecting to qualify for windfall gains of more than £1,000 after a motion calling for conversion to plc status is announced today.....................Page 48

Protection: The group of Seven industrial countries is likely to agree a package of reforms to the International Monetary Fund.......Page 48

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Lisa Armstrong: "The cognoscenti now appreciate that innovation doesn't come only in the form of a one-sleeved jacket, or heels of different heights, but that it can also take the shape of a gentle ripple of pintucks on a sleeve or the shoulder straps on a wrap."..............Page 15

Political portraits: "John Redwood is running about in jaunty clothes, his features swathed in a manic grin. He has just stood against Major and is delighted with the publicity. The more he tries to appear normal, the madder he looks." George Walden's memoirs.......Pages 16, 17

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French treat: More than 5,000 people are packing the Pont des Arts in Paris to see dozens of giant sculptures created by Ousmane Sow, the Senegalese physiotherapist turned sculptor.....................................Page 18

Pop reunion: Happy Mondays' return to the touring circuit turned out to be a pleasant surprise for fans in Manchester................ Page 18

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TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **ARTS**
What makes Cate Blanchett smile these days? Starring in the Hollywood film, *Pushing Tin*

■ **LAW**
How the small claims court left me with big legal bills: the story of a rueful litigant

SPORT

Football: Manchester United and Chelsea were both held to draws as the battle for the FA Carling Premiership title intensified... Page 25

Cricket: Andrew Flintoff, the young Lancashire all-rounder, warmed up for the World Cup by hitting a whirlwind century in the new CGU National League............... Page 34

Golf: Jamie Spence was left frustrated and angry by the mystery of a disappearing ball in the final round of the Peugeot Spanish Open in Barcelona.......................................Page 26

Tennis: Tim Henman proved that he could succeed on clay courts when he teamed up with Frenchman Olivier Delaitre for the first time and lifted the Monte Carlo open doubles title ....Page 37

Rugby union: Leicester have one hand on the Allied Dunbar Premiership title after demolishing Sale..Page 36

Rugby league: Wigan Warriors were dealt a blow when they lost to Castleford Tigers ....Page 37

LOTTERY

3, 8, 11, 25, 46, 47. Bonus: 30
Five share £7.6m, winning £1,539,217 each; 24 tickets with five numbers and bonus win £98,667 each; 877 match five numbers for £1,687 each.

RADIO & TV

Preview: Travel show to help people to use the Internet. *WebWise* (BBC2, 7.30pm) **Review:** Alan Tyler puts the "thick" in thick Scottish accent: *The Sundays*.........Pages 46,47

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Time for the frontlash

The nail bomb assailants wish not only to sow fear among minority communities but to drive a wedge between them and white residents. The best possible response is not only their swift arrest but an investigation that brings together people of different colours.............Page 21

Woolf at the door

The expectations that the long-awaited Woolf reforms will transform civil justice into a quick and cost-effective remedy for disputes, accessible to all, are about to be put to the test ....Page 21

Safely mature

Specialist cheesemakers fear that overpowering bureaucracy might force them out of business. Politicians should remember the principle of "caveat emptor"........Page 21

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WILLIAM REES-MOGG

I find the argument linking the Columbine High School massacre, the Serbian ethnic cleansing in Kosovo and the Brixton bomb to the historic influence of Hitler very persuasive...Page 20

PETER RIDDELL

No Prime Minister can handle more than two crises at the same time. This old Downing Street adage is being tested to the full at present ....Page 20

ANNA BLUNDY

Happy milkmaids, fields of corn, golden light and lots of old men vaguely modelled on Leo Tolstoy. This is the surreal image of Russia presented in television adverts across the country................Page 20

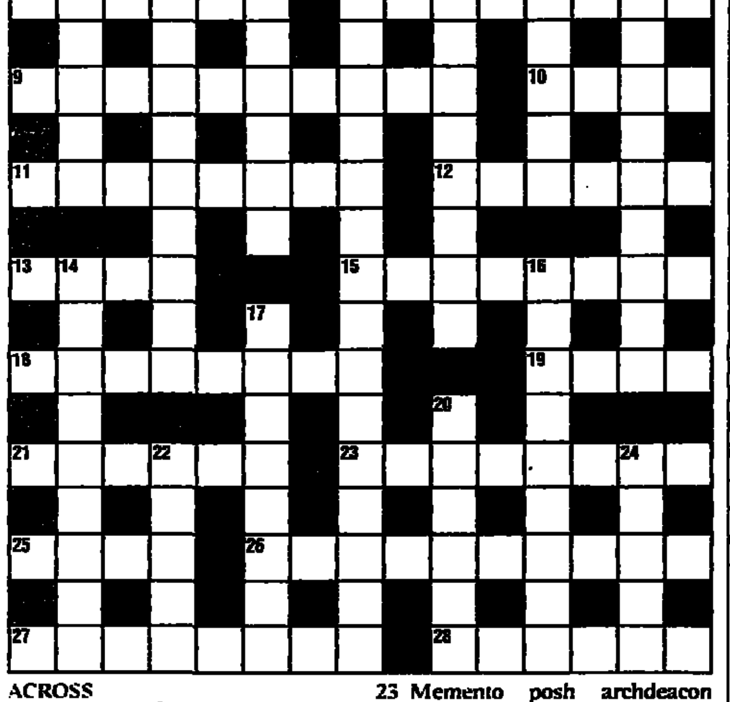
OBITUARIES

Arthur Boyd, artist; **Sir James Cobban,** headmaster; **Lord Killanin,** former president of the Olympic Committe......................Page 23

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THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,087



ACROSS
1 Resistance from French noble banishing king (6).
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14 Turn up in Scottish island, initially concealing English pride (9).
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17 Distress characteristic in a former nurse (8).
20 Sort of vehicle with tons of fish (6).
22 Fury as financial backer changes sides (5).
24 Woman in theatre finally about to make an entry (5).

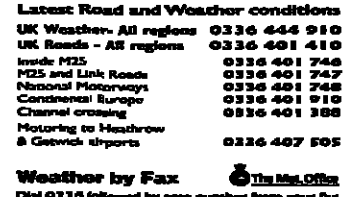
The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 21,086 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

Times Two Crossword, page 48

Check today's answers by ringing 0640 622 193. (Calls cost 60p per minute)

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 5.43 am
Sun sets: 8.14 pm
Moon sets: 4.34 am
Moon rises: 3.46 pm
Full moon April 30

London 8.14 pm to 5.41 am
Bristol 8.24 pm to 5.51 am
Edinburgh 8.41 pm to 5.40 am
Manchester 8.29 pm to 5.44 am
Penzance 8.33 pm to 6.07 am

FORECAST

☐ **General:** southern England, the Midlands and Wales breezy and rather cloudy with occasional showery rain and sunny intervals. Northwest England, Northern Ireland and western Scotland fine and bright with spells of warm sunshine after early mist has cleared. Northeast England and eastern Scotland will start overcast and misty with fog and drizzle near the coast, but it should slowly brighten up well inland.

Tonight, mist and low cloud will develop in central and eastern counties of England. A touch of frost in the Scottish glens

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, E Midlands:** a few showers; breaks in cloud will allow a little sunshine. Brisk NE breeze. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **Cent S, SW England, W Midlands, Channel Islands, Wales:** rather cloudy with patchy light rain; a few sunny intervals. Brisk NE wind. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **E, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen:** a dull start with fog and drizzle near to coast and over the hills, but it should slowly brighten up well inland. Moderate east or northeast wind. Max 14C (57F), lower on coasts

☐ **NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands:** early mist and low cloud will clear to leave a dry day with sunny spells, particularly in the west. Moderate northeast wind. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **Central N England:** early mist and low cloud may linger all day in the eastern fringes, but sunny spells will develop in the west. Light east wind. Max 15C (59F)

☐ **Moray Firth, NE Scotland:** early mist and low cloud may linger all day in the eastern fringes, but sunny spells will develop in the west. Light east wind. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **Argyll, NW Scotland:** dry and fairly warm with good sunny periods. Light east wind. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** mainly cloudy with some mist and drizzle, but it may become a shade brighter in the afternoon. Light southeast wind. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **N Ireland:** mainly dry with broken cloud and sunny periods. Moderate northeast wind. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** rather cloudy with a little showery rain at first, drier and brighter later. Fresh easterly wind. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **Outlook:** it will be mostly dry and settled with the best of the sunshine and highest temperatures in the west, but a brisk northeasterly wind will keep eastern counties of England rather cloudy and cool. Light rain may reach northern Scotland on Wednesday.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm. b = bright, c = cloud, d = drizzle, ds = dust storm, du = dull, f = fair, fg = fog, g = gales, h = hail, r = rain, sh = shower, sl = sleet, s = sun, t = thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	-	0.01	9	48	d	Jersey	2.1	0.24	12	54	r
Anglesey	1.3	0.06	12	54	r	Kinloss	8.7	-	15	59	s
Aspatria	7.8	-	18	64	s	Leeds	4.3	-	16	61	b
Aviemore	4.9	-	15	59	b	Lerwick	6.5	0.05	11	52	s
Belfast	1.5	0.09	12	54	r	Leuchars	-	0.01	8	46	fg
Birmingham	3.1	0.01	13	55	b	Littlehampton	4.1	0.01	14	57	b
Bognor R	3.7	0.01	13	55	b	London	2.6	-	17	63	b
Bournemth	1.9	0.02	13	55	sh	Lowestoft	9.2	-	15	59	s
Bristol	1.2	0.05	14	57	sh	Manchester	2.0	0.01	15	59	c
Buxton	0.1	0.01	13	55	b	Margate	10.5	0.01	15	59	s
Cardiff	0.7	0.28	13	55	r	Morecambe	4.4	0.01	15	59	c
Cleethorpes	6.1	0.01	16	61	s	Newcastle	0.3	0.01	12	54	c
Colwyn Bay	0.7	0.05	13	55	r	Newquay	-	1.09	11	52	r
Cromer	8.4	0.01	16	61	s	Norwich	8.0	0.01	17	63	s
Eastbourne	3.9	-	13	55	c	Oxford	-	0.01	14	57	r
Edinburgh	2.1	0.01	9	48	fg	Penzance	1.0	0.44	13	55	r
Eskdalemuir	2.2	-	13	55	b	Poole	-	0.06	13	55	r
Exmouth	2.5	0.37	10	50	r	Prestatyn	2.3	0.01	14	57	c
Fishguard	0.1	0.07	11	52	r	Ross on Wye	1.1	0.02	14	57	r
Folkestone	9.1	0.24	15	59	s	Saunton Sands	1.7	0.17	11	52	sh
Glasgow	4.3	-	13	55	b	Scarborough	2.8	-	12	54	fg
Guernsey	1.7	0.20	14	57	r	Shrewsbury	1.4	0.01	13	55	c
Hastings	5.7	-	15	59	b	Skegness	10.4	-	15	59	s
Hayling I.	2.6	0.01	12	54	c	Southend	11.0	-	14	57	s
Herne Bay	9.1	-	17	63	s	Southsea	7.3	-	13	55	s
Hove	6.1	-	15	59	s	Stornoway	11.0	0.01	14	57	s
Hunstanton	8.1	-	17	63	s	Swanage	1.8	0.05	11	52	sh
Isle of Man	2.2	0.01	11	52	c	Teignmouth	2.3	0.42	11	52	r
Isle of Wight	2.2	0.01	13	55	c	Tenby	0.3	0.74	10	50	r

ABROAD

Ajaccio	16	61	s	Cologne	15	59	f	Madrid	17	63	c	Rome	17	63	s
Akrotiri	22	72	s	C'phagn	14	57	s	Majorca	21	70	s	Salzburg	15	59	s
Alex'dria	22	72	s	Corfu	20	68	f	Malaga	25	77	s	S Frisco	19	66	s
Algiers	23	73	s	Dublin	11	52	c	Malta	23	73	s	Santiago	22	72	f
Amst'dm	15	59	f	Dubrovnik	13	55	r	Melbourne	18	64	s	S Paulo	X		
Athens	20	68	f	Faro	19	66	f	Mexico C	24	75	s	Seoul	25	77	f
Bahrain	32	90	s	Florence	16	61	f	Miami	29	84	s	Singapore	33	91	f
Bangkok	33	91	f	Frankfurt	16	61	f	Milan	20	68	f	Stockholm	11	52	f
Barbados	29	84	f	Funchal	20	68	s	Montreal	8	46	s	Strasb'rg	18	64	f
Barcelona	18	64	f	Geneva	14	57	f	Moscow	16	61	s	Sydney	17	63	c
Beijing	21	70	s	Gibraltar	21	70	s	Munich	15	59	s	Tangier	19	66	c
Beirut	19	66	s	Helsinki	10	50	c	Nairobi	21	70	f	Tel Aviv	24	75	s
Belgrade	14	57	r	Hong K	31	88	f	Naples	19	66	f	Tenerife	24	75	s
Berlin	17	63	s	Innsbruck	16	61	f	N Delhi	38	100	s	Tokyo	15	59	r
Bermuda	23	73	s	Istanbul	21	70	s	N York	12	54	r	Toronto	8	46	f
Biarritz	13	55	f	Jeddah	33	91	s	Nice	16	61	s	Tunis	24	75	s
Bordeaux	15	59	c	Jo'burg	18	64	f	Oslo	10	50	c	Valencia	25	77	s
Brussels	14	57	f	L Palmas	27	81	s	Paris	12	54	c	Vanc'ver	13	55	f
Budapest	15	59	f	Le Touquet	13	55	f	Perth	23	73	s	Venice	17	63	f
B Aires	27	81	f	Lisbon	17	63	f	Prague	17	63	f	Vienna	15	59	f
Cairo	24	75	f	Locarno	15	59	f	Reykjavik	7	45	f	Warsaw	17	63	f
Cape Tn	18	64	c	L Angeles	15	59	f	Rhodes	21	70	s	Wash'ton	18	64	f
Chicago	8	46	s	Luxembg	14	57	f	Rio de J	24	75	f	Wel'ngton	13	55	X
Ch'church	11	52	X	Luxor	32	90	s	Riyadh	40	104	s	Zurich	15	59	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Friday. X = not available

NOON TODAY

CALM
MODERATE
CALM

Changes for the chart below from noon: Low E will drift southwards and start to fill. Low I is expected to remain close to the southern Greenland coast and slowly fill. High B will remain over northern Scandinavia with pressure unchanged.

Warm front
Cold front
Occluded front

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	10:42	3.7	23:23	3.7	Liverpool	8:22	8.2	20:55	8.3
Avonmouth	3:57	11.1	16:35	11.4	London Bridge	10.53	6.5	23:22	6.4
Belfast	8:02	3.2	20:56	3.1	Lowestoft	7:11	2.3	18:54	2.2
Cardiff	3:43	10.3	16:21	10.6	Margate	9:18	4.3	21:32	4.2
Devonport	2:39	4.6	15:23	4.7	Milford Haven	3:12	5.8	15:45	5.6
Dover	8:22	5.7	20:38	5.9	Newquay	2:10	5.8	14:42	5.9
Dublin	8:55	3.9	21:33	3.7	Oban	3:34	3.2	15:49	3.2
Falmouth	2:10	4.4	14:54	4.5	Penzance	1:38	4.7	14:12	4.7
Greenock	9:18	3.0	22:24	2.9	Portland	3:19	1.4	16:10	1.4
Harwich	8:52	3.5	21:15	3.4	Portsmouth	8:42	3.9	21:09	4.2
Holyhead	7:39	4.9	20:16	4.9	Shoreham	8:19	5.2	20:59	5.4
Hull (Albert D)	3:30	7.5	15:43	7.7	Southampton	8:19	3.9	20:50	4.2
Ilfracombe	2:57	7.7	15:30	7.9	Swansea	3:17	10.8	15:50	10.9
King's Lynn	3:32	5.4	15:39	5.5	Tees	0:38	9.3	12:51	9.3
Leith	11:58	4.8	-	-	Walton-On-Naze	8:51	3.8	21:13	3.7

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: highest day temp: Aspatria (Cumbria) 18C (64F); Lowest day max: Inverbervie (Aberdeenshire) and Shap Fell (Cumbria) 8C (46F); highest rainfall: Cardinham (Cornwall) 1.97ins; highest sunshine: Clacton (Essex) 11.1 hrs

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هكذا من الأصل

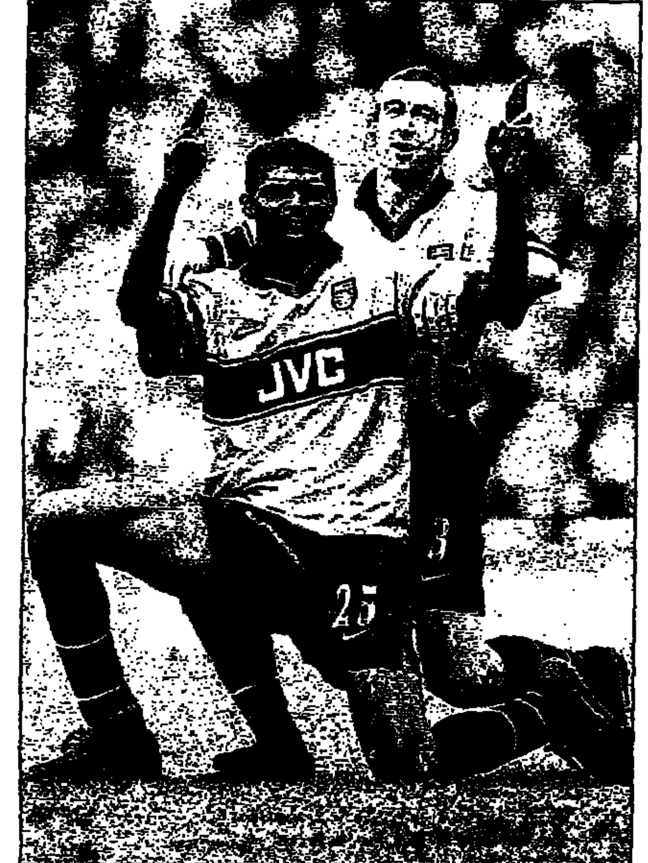
Lightning strikes
Flintoff in electric form for Lancashire
Page 34

True lies
A little leeway on the fairway
Page 33

Never shy but retiring
Matt Dickinson on Atkinson's farewell
Page 32

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY APRIL 26 1999


Six-shooters: Kanu, left, and Winterburn celebrate one of Arsenal's half-dozen goals against Middlesbrough

MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: MARC ASPLAND



Slow on the draw: Ferguson ponders Manchester United's failure to retake the Premiership lead at Elland Road yesterday


Sights lowered: Gianluca Vialli, the player-manager, contemplates the likely end of Chelsea's title hopes

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Arsenal	34	19	12	3	54	15	69	+39
Manchester United	33	19	11	3	73	33	68	+40
Chelsea	34	17	14	3	49	26	65	+23

MANCHESTER UNITED
May 1: Aston Villa (h), May 5: Liverpool (a), May 9: Middlesbrough (a), May 12: Blackburn (a), May 16: Tottenham (h)

ARSENAL
May 2: Derby County (h), May 5: Tottenham (a)
May 11: Leeds United (a), May 16: Aston Villa (h)

CHELSEA
May 1: Everton (h), May 5: Leeds United (h)
May 10: Tottenham (a), May 16: Derby County (h)

Wenger's ruthless troops go gunning for United

BY OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THERE has been much talk in recent weeks from the players of Manchester United about the importance of sending messages to their rivals with emphatic performances, messages of invulnerability that gradually drain the opposition of all hope. As he stood in one of the wide corridors at the Riverside Stadium early on Saturday evening, Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, smiled when he was reminded of what they had been saying.

His side had just subjected Middlesbrough to a humiliating rout. In the process, they had leapt to the top of the FA Carling Premiership for the first time this season. Wenger could afford to feel pleased with himself. "Three points is the best message you can give," he said.

Going by that criterion, United suffered a rare breakdown in communications yesterday. Their failure to beat a spirited, skilful Leeds United side at Elland Road was not a bad result, but, taken together with the sheer brilliance of Arsenal's 6-1 demolition of Middlesbrough, it seemed to throw the championship race wide open again.

United trail the champions by a point and even though their fate is still in their control because they have a game in hand, even though they are still the bookmakers' favourites, Arsenal will hold the psychological advantage of being top for the next five days at least. In United's favour, they will not face opponents of Leeds's calibre again, while Arsenal still have to play O'Leary's side and endure the lottery of a North London derby at White Hart Lane.

If Chelsea had won yesterday afternoon, rather than trudging to a dull goalless draw away to Sheffield Wednesday, they might have re-entered the race. Now, though, they have retreated even further into the shadows.

"There are still a lot of twists and turns to come," Ferguson said after he had seen Dwight Yorke spurn a late chance to beat Leeds, "but this is a good result for Arsenal and Chelsea. It will have given them much more hope. It will go right down to the wire now."

The way that Arsenal played on Saturday suggests that Ferguson might be right. They were irresistible. Kanu, their Nigeria forward, was so inspired that it will be hard to leave him out, even for Dennis Bergkamp. One of his goals, an outrageously extravagant back-heel from 12 yards, almost defied belief. His poise and positional awareness have brought yet another dimension to an Arsenal attack that was not exactly short of weapons in the first place.

In defence, the champions were as relentlessly parsimonious as ever. Steve Bould, deputising for the suspended Martin Keown, produced a faultless display that underlined the standards that Keown and Tony Adams have to set in order to keep him on the bench. Even at 35, Bould would be a starting member of any other side in the country. Even Manchester United.

It is also significant that since their epic defeat at the hands of United in their FA Cup semi-final replay, Arsenal's blitz of goals against Wimbledon and Middlesbrough has cut United's goal difference advantage to one instead of 11.

Arsenal are at their most relentless now, unforgiving and brutal, and United will have to shake off their fatigue and rediscover the *joie de vivre* that sent them dancing past Juventus if they are to hold them off. Not only did Ferguson's team look jaded against their bitter rivals from Yorkshire yesterday, they also finished the game with an epidemic of injuries that does not bode well for their ability to cope with the demands of a punishing championship run-in.

In the aftermath of the 1-1 draw, secured when Andy Cole scored a second-half equaliser to rub out Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink's goal for Leeds, Ferguson orchestrated a mass withdrawal of his players from international duty.

Paul Scholes and Andy Cole were pulled out of the England squad that travels to Hungary today. Jaap Stam, whose Achilles tendon injury is causing concern, will not join up with Holland and neither Ronny Johnsen nor Henning Berg will be part of Norway's plans. Add to that the fact that Ryan Giggs may miss the rest of the season with an ankle injury and the scale of the problem is obvious.

"We did well in some respects today," Ferguson said. "Our passing was chaotic at times and in the first 20 minutes we were very lackadaisical, but, considering the exertions of the last two weeks, that is understandable."

Ferguson is not the kind to need any reassurance, but David O'Leary, the Leeds manager, offered some anyway. "I have said I think United will win the title all along," he said, "and I will stay with them now. I thought Arsenal would beat Middlesbrough, so that doesn't really change anything. But one thing is for sure: they will push United all the way."

INSIDE

Keegan loses six from his squad

KEVIN KEEGAN'S England plans, already stamped with compromise and pragmatism, were thrown into chaos last night when six members of his squad pulled out of the friendly international against Hungary on Wednesday because of injury (Oliver Holt writes).

The withdrawals of Sol Campbell, who has a hamstring injury, and Andy Cole, who damaged an ankle during Manchester United's draw with Leeds United yesterday, have robbed him of the opportunity to work on the partnerships between Cole and Alan Shearer and Campbell and Martin Keown. The match at Elland Road also produced two more casualties: Jonathon Woodgate was hurt attempting to prevent United's equaliser and had to be substituted suffering from a foot injury, while Paul Scholes, who only came on six minutes from the end, is being dogged by the knee trouble that prevented him starting the game in the first place.

Gareth Southgate and Graeme Le Saux will also be absent through injury. The only piece of good news for Keegan and the squad, who depart for Budapest today, is that Kevin Phillips, the Sunderland striker, is available for selection after his daughter, Millie, recovered from the illness that forced him to miss his side's game with Sheffield United on Saturday.

GOLF: WAYWARD TEE SHOT COSTS FURIOUS BRITON £43,450 IN THE FINAL ROUND OF SPANISH OPEN

Lost ball drives Spence to despair

FROM MEL WEBB
IN BARCELONA

ANOTHER day, another row. The Peugeot Spanish Open has been dogged by controversies and it was not done with them in the final round yesterday as Jamie Spence had a ruling imposed on him that cost him, at the very least, the chance to finish second in the tournament. It also cost him the small matter of £43,450 — and Spence was not happy about it.

Spence, 35, was the closest challenger to Jarmo Sandelin, the eventual winner, when he hooked his drive 20 yards to the left of the par-five 12th fairway at El Prat. He and Janet Squire, his caddie, were adamant that they saw the ball roll under an improperly parked car, but, when they got to the spot, the ball could not be found.

Paul Carrigill, a European Tour rules official, was summoned and, after consulting John Paramor, the Tour's chief referee, ruled that as there was not sufficient evidence as to the location of the ball, Spence would have to declare it lost, return to the tee and drive again under a two-stroke penalty.

The result was a double-bogey seven and Spence finished in a tie for fifth place on 16 under par. Had the penalty not been imposed and his round had finished as it did, he would have ended the tournament on 18 under. His prize would have been £66,650 — as it was, he had to be content with £23,200.

Spence was furious. "No question about it, the ball was picked up by somebody. Nothing else could have happened to it," he said. "If there had been a marshal there, as there had been all week, the cars would not have been parked there in the first place. It was ridiculous."

Paramor was apologetic. "We tried to block cars off from parking there, but a few got through," he said.



Sandelin salutes the crowd after sinking the final putt that sealed his victory in the Spanish Open yesterday. Photograph: Albert Olive

This is not the first time that Spence has been hit by a contested ruling. He thought that he was taking a three-shot lead into the final round of the Roma Masters at Castelgandolfo in 1993, but was disqualified overnight for taking an incorrect drop when it transpired that he had moved his ball 15 yards instead of 13 from an area of ground under repair.

Spence could not but remember that incident as he looked back on *his misfortune* and his reaction included a reference to Severiano Ballesteros's controversial drop in the first round of this tournament that was as transparent as a wet T-shirt. "To think, I was disqualified in 1993 for dropping my ball two yards out of position," he said, "and yet there has been somebody here this week who dropped his ball eight yards away from where they should have done and was allowed to play on. The rules of golf are very hard and very unfair at times, but what can you do but accept it?"

Spence's misfortune meant a hefty bonus for Ignacio Garrido, Miguel Angel Jiménez, both of Spain, and Paul McGinley, of Ireland, who shared second place, but did not make a jot of difference to Sandelin. The tall, rangy Swede, 32, went into the last round with a three-stroke lead and the gap was never closer than that at any time in the day as he completed a closing round of 69 to win by four.

His triumph on 267, 21 under par, which won him £100,000 and pushed him into fifth place in the Ryder Cup standings, was his third on the European Tour, but was the most precious by far.

His mother, Sinikka, died two months ago and in a tearful and poignant moment during his press conference, he dedicated his win to her — "and the next, and the next after that". At times like this, things like incorrect drops — yes, and even £43,000 — can seem awfully insignificant.

John Hopkins, page 33

LEADING SCORES FROM BARCELONA

(Great Britain and Ireland unless stated) **267:** J Sandelin (Swe) 66, 66, 66, 69 **271:** M A Jiménez (Sp) 72, 68, 67, 64; I Garrido (Sp) 65, 71, 67, 68; P McGinley 67, 68, 66, 70 **272:** J Spence 65, 68, 70, 69; J C Aguero (Sp) 65, 70, 67, 70. **273:** A Wall 65, 72, 69, 67; P Lawrie 66, 66, 73, 68. **275:** P O'Malley (Aus) 71, 67, 69, 68; A Cejka (Ger) 68, 69, 68, 70. **276:** D Borrego (Sp) 68, 70, 72, 66; P Affleck 68, 74, 68, 66; A Sallo (Sp) 73, 63, 69, 71; G Evans 72, 64, 69, 71. **277:** J Mellor 70, 69, 73, 65; I Garbutt 72, 67, 71, 67. **278:** P Fulke (Swe) 70, 70, 70, 68; P Mitchell 71, 71, 68, 68; P Eales 69, 67, 73, 69; S Luna (Sp) 71, 67, 71, 69; V Phillips 69, 69, 71, 69; M Scarpa (It) 70, 69, 70, 69; M Jonzon (Swe) 67, 69, 71, 71; D Smyth 74, 64, 69, 71. **279:** M Long (NZ) 73, 69, 70, 67; M Campbell (NZ) 67, 71, 73, 68; D Carter 69, 72, 70, 68; S Garcia (Sp) 67, 73, 70, 69; P Baker 68, 73, 69, 69; M A Martin (Sp) 71, 67, 71, 70; S Hansen (Den) 71, 68, 69, 71; C Hanell (Swe) 71, 70, 67, 71

SNOOKER

O'Sullivan lifts his game to retain initiative

BY PHIL YATES

A CRUEL slice of fortune, lapses in concentration and a determined opponent could not prevent Ronnie O'Sullivan from closing in on a quarter-final place in the Embassy world championship at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, yesterday.

The match resumes at 10am today with O'Sullivan holding a 9-7 lead over Joe Perry, the world No 74, who has acquitted himself admirably on his debut in the last 16 of a ranking tournament.

O'Sullivan therefore needs only four of the remaining nine frames to provide the next opposition for John Parrott and remain on course to capture a title that his natural talent, if not his application, deserves.

The second session was a showcase for all that is appealing and frustrating about the 23-year-old from Chigwell, who has already won the United Kingdom championship twice and, at the peak of his powers, is unstoppable.

A well-crafted 66 clearance to black enabled O'Sullivan to erase a 53-point deficit in the ninth frame and further successes were achieved with runs of 54 and 76. However, from 6-3 to 6-6, O'Sullivan lacked focus and accuracy.

Sensing danger, he re-established a two-frame cushion at 8-6, but Perry fluked the pink to a balk pocket to steal the fifteenth frame fortuitously and was unexpectedly set to end the day on level terms when 44-0 ahead late in the sixteenth.

Perry, responsible for the first-round elimination of Steve Davis, missed a delicate blue to a middle pocket, though, and O'Sullivan, displaying exceptional positional skill, replied with 74 to improve his chance of progress significantly.

Stephen Lee produced an outstanding first session to take a 6-2 lead over Alan McManus and, had it not been for a bizarre conclusion to the fifth frame, his healthy overnight advantage would surely have been even more commanding. Lee was solid, self-assured and fluent.

Trailing 68-23 with one red on the table in the fifth, McManus needed three snookers. But the whole complexion of the frame changed when Lee went in-off while essaying a safety shot, unluckily leaving a free ball and McManus produced a clearance of 42 to snatch it on the black.

Showing considerable mental toughness, Lee recovered from 50 points adrift to win the sixth frame with a green-to-black clearance and subsequently added runs of 87 and 104 in the closing frames of the afternoon to earlier contributions of 49, 89, 128 and 68.

The equation for inclusion among the elite top 16 in the world rankings next season, complex at the start of the championship nine days ago, is now simple. Tony Drago's 13-8 second-round defeat by Matthew Stevens on Saturday guarantees that, for an unprecedented twentieth consecutive campaign, Steve Davis will be a member. Unless James Wattana reaches the final, Jimmy White will also regain top-16 status.



LINKS

WEBSITES: www.embassysnooker.com — official tournament site; www.snookerimages.co.uk — general information
TELEVISION: BBC2, 1.10pm and 8pm

Pessoa takes applause in faultless victory

EQUESTRIANISM

From Jenny MacArthur in Gothenburg

HURLING his hat high in the air, Rodrigo Pessoa claimed his second successive World Cup title yesterday after a faultless final round on Gandini Baloubet du Rouet ensured victory by a slender 1.50 points.

The Brazilian, 26, who last year became the first rider to win the world championships and the World Cup in the same year, was greeted with a standing ovation at the Scandinavium.

Pessoa's success came at the expense of Trevor Coyle, on Cruising, who came within a whisker of giving Ireland its first showjumping World Cup victory, but Coyle had to settle for second place, despite being the only partnership not to ground a pole throughout the competition. All the same, this was Ireland's best result in the event since it began in 1979.

"When you're chasing someone like Rodrigo, it's amazing; the courage you need to try to catch him," Coyle said. "He's such a talented guy. You just have to grab the chance when you can." Coyle thought that chance had come in the jump-off of the second leg, but paid dearly for a bold turn when Cruising incurred three faults.

Michael Whitaker, of Great Britain, on Virtual Village Ashley, was the only rider to incur no faults over the two rounds, winning the final leg outright. Although this lifted him from nineteenth to fifth place, it left Whitaker, who had four faults in each of the first two legs, in a frustrated mood. "Both the mistakes were bad luck — I don't think I could have done anything differently," he said.

For his older brother, John, it has also been a chequered three days. After a disappointing start, on Grannusch, he climbed to eleventh place after winning the second leg on Heyman. Yesterday, they had 12 faults over the two rounds, finishing tenth.

By the start of the the second round of the final leg yesterday, the tension around the arena was evident. Pessoa was separated only by one point from Coyle and Ludger Beerbaum, of Germany, on Priamos, in joint second place.

Rene Tebbel and Radiator, in fourth, put the pressure on the leaders with just 0.25sec in faults, which meant none of the top three could afford a mistake. Beerbaum, the European champion, promptly dropped out of contention but Coyle displayed his cool nerve when he and Cruising finished on half a time fault. If Pessoa, the last to go, made one mistake, victory would have gone to Ireland. Watched by his father and trainer, Nelson, Pessoa, with the entire stadium jumping each fence with him, duly finished without fault. The announcement of his victory was drowned by his vociferous supporters.

WORLD CUP: 1, R Pessoa (Br) 4; 2 T Coyle (Ire) 5 5, 3, R Tebbel (Ger) 8 25, 4, B Mandli (Switz) 11.5; 5, M Whitaker (GB) 15; Other British: 10, J Whitaker. **Second Leg:** 1, Virtual Village Ashley (M Whitaker, GB) 0 and 0; 2, Radiator (R Tebbel, Ger) 0.25 and 0.25, 3, Cruising (T Coyle, Ire) 0 50 and 0 50, 4, Gandini Baloubet du Rouet (R Pessoa, Br) 4 and 0. **Rolex Kentucky three-day event** (after cross country) 1 Prince Panache (K O'Connor, US) 63; 2 Aspyring (B Tait, NZ) 70; 3 The Gangster (K Gifford, GB) 85

Holt shows competitive edge

BOWLS

By David Rhys Jones

DAVID HOLT, Blackpool Borough's indoor club manager, retained his English Bowls Players Association (EBPA) title at Wellingborough yesterday to become the first man to win the championship twice.

Holt reached the final with a 7-4, 7-2 win over Gary Smith, the EBPA secretary, then turned on a classy display of consistent drawing to the jack to secure a 7-2, 7-4 victory over Mick Sharpe, the former England player from Northampton's Kingsthorpe club.

"It's certainly been an eventful 12 months since I won the title here last winter," Holt said.

"I missed a great chance of breaking into the televised bowls circuit when I lost in the England singles final in 1997, but everything has gone right for me recently."

Having qualified for the world indoor singles at Potters, he reached the semi-finals of that event in January, achieved a pairs and triples double in the national indoor championships at Melton Mowbray earlier this month and is now ranked No 20 in the world.

His hardest game of the weekend was a quarter-final encounter with David Lockhart, his Blackpool Borough club-mate, with whom he won that England double.

"Coming from a highly competitive crown green background, I need to build up something approaching hate for my opponent, so playing against Dave, who is a good friend, was a difficult proposition," Holt admitted after winning 7-3, 6-7, 7-3.

☐ Brian Brett won the English Bowling Federation national indoor singles title for Huntingdonshire, when he defeated Alan Lawton, of Durham, 21-12 in the final at Newark.

Results, page 38

HOCKEY

Slough on course for treble

BY CATHY HARRIS

A BRACE of penalty-corner goals by Jane Smith, the England striker, kept Slough on course to complete a domestic treble when they beat Chelmsford 4-0 in the semi-finals of the EHA Cup, to set up a meeting with Leicester next month.

Leicester were made to work harder for their place in the final, beating their local rivals, Olton, 1-0. They sealed the result in the 24th minute when Justine Williams, the Welsh forward, swept the ball in after an excellent move involving Kirsty Bowden and Sarah Blanks.

Displaying admirable determination, Olton maintained the pressure throughout the contest. There were glimpses of class from Barbara Hambly, their veteran midfield player, and Lucilla Wright, the teenager, but the quality of their finishing was poor.

However, Slough, who could also have paid a heavy price for missed opportunities, coasted home. Despite the absence of Sue Chandler, their captain, who is resting a knee injury, Sarah Kelleher, of Ireland, and Ali Burd, who were unavailable, the premier division champions were rarely tested.

Smith struck in the sixth and 28th minutes, with Anna Bennett and Mandy Nicholson on target after the break. Katy Roberts, the Chelmsford goalkeeper, celebrated her recent international selection by saving two second-half penalty strokes, taken by Lesley Hobley, and twice denying Nicholson.

Reading cruise into final

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

CANNOCK, the holders, and Reading qualified for the EHA Cup final yesterday. Reading with a 4-0 away victory against Old Loughtonians and Cannock winning 2-0 at home to Southgate. The final will be played at Milton Keynes on May 9.

At Chigwell, Reading played the more constructive hockey while Old Loughtonians attempted to catch them on the break, but generally ran out of ideas in the circle.

Reading led 2-0 at the interval, with goals from Ashdown and Ken Robinson, before second half goals by Hoskin, from a short corner, and Ashdown again doubled the score. Late in the second half eight men were pitted against ten, Sean Robinson, Hector and Prebble, of Old Loughtonians, having been suspended along with Andrew Todd, of Reading.

Mayer scored for the home side in the sixteenth minute at Cannock, with Crutchley adding a second goal from a short corner three minutes before the end. The teams are also due to meet in the National League Premiership final, at Milton Keynes on May 3.

In the two match play-off for tenth place in the restructured premier division next season, Surbiton defeated Hounslow 3-0 on Saturday. The return match takes place on May 8. Peterborough Town and Formby, having won the cross-over play-offs, qualified for the second division next season. Both teams have previously played in the National League.

SPORT IN BRIEF

■ **SHOOTING:** Great Britain's attempt to win the rifle shooting world championship for the third successive time ended in narrow failure in Bloemfontein, South Africa, where the host country became the new holders of the Palma Trophy (David Powell writes). Britain had to settle for the runners-up spot as South Africa won by less than a central bull's eye, the narrowest winning margin under the present rules. Britain effectively lost the championship on the first day, at 800 metres in high winds. A valiant fightback on the second day of the 12-nation contest saw Britain reduce the deficit from 25 points to eight at the end. South Africa scored 14,081.599 points to Britain's 14,073.598. New Zealand were third on 14,044.568.

■ **FOOTBALL: Croydon are a point away from winning the Women's Premier League title after an impressive 4-0 home triumph over Tranmere Rovers yesterday, which extended their unbeaten run to 17 games (Cathy Gibb writes). Debbie Bampton, Carmaine Walker, Jemma Hunt and Jo Broadhurst scored the goals at The Arena, a victory that augurs well, for they meet the same opposition next Sunday.**

■ **FENCING:** Louise Bond-Williams won the silver medal at the women's world cadet sabre championships in Dijon, France, on Saturday. Bond-Williams, from Chipping Campden, Oxfordshire, was beaten by Marianna Ticarico, of Italy, 15-12 in the final. Bond-Williams, 16, earlier had beaten Liz Jones, her Stratford club colleague, Flora Scalato, of Italy, and Ekater Fedorkina, of Russia.

■ **CYCLING: Michael Boogerd, the Dutch national champion, frustrated Lance Armstrong, of the United States, to win the Amstel Gold race, the fifth round of the World Cup, by a hair's breadth in Maastricht (Jeremy Whittle writes). The climax, though, was marred by a crash involving a photographer's motorcycle and two of the riders in the four-man leading group.**

■ **MOTORCYCLING:** Troy Bayliss, of Australia, heads the chase for the *Motor Cycle News* British superbike title after a superb third-round winning double on his INS Ducati at Oulton Park yesterday opened an eight-point advantage over Chris Walker, the Kawasaki rider. "It feels great, but there is more to come." Bayliss, who secured a double for the first time, said. Walker finished in third and fourth places.

■ **REAL TENNIS: Penny Lumley retained the Guy Salmon women's world championship with an impressive display of coolness and determination at Hampton Court yesterday. She defeated Sue Haswell, the No 2 seed, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 after trailing 2-4 in the deciding set. The tightest final of recent years saw Lumley capture a record fifth world title.**

■ **AMERICAN FOOTBALL:** Dameyune Craig, the quarterback, threw four touchdown passes as the Scottish Claymores equalled the NFL Europe record for the most points by a team in one game in a 48-14 victory over Berlin Thunder(Richard Wetherell writes). The Claymores were 37-7 ahead at half-time, a league record points tally for a half.

SAILING

Mouligne closes in on leader

BY EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

MIKE GARSIDE'S hopes of winning the fourth and final stage of the Around Alone Race from Punte del Este to Charleston are in the balance as J. P. Mouligne, of France, the class two leader, closed the gap after trailing the Briton for 14 days.

As both sailors moved into the southern edge of The Doldrum belt, Mouligne, who has won every leg of the race so far in *Cray Valley*, had reduced Garside's lead by nearly 60 miles to 145 miles with just over 3,000 miles left.

"I know J. P. is going to close up soon," Garside said from his Finot-designed racer, *Magellan Alpha*. "The race could well be decided in the next few days. We are both nursing damaged boats and bodies and we could both take it easy now, but that's not in my nature and I don't think it's in Mouligne's either."

In Barcelona, Ortwin Kandler's Corel 45, *Faster K-Yote*, produced an impressive fourth and final stage of the Trofeo Majorica to take the series title, ahead of David Maclean, in *Babbalaas*, and Graham Walker, in *Indulgence*.

The series saw three British-registered boats racing, with Chris Little's *Bounder* also among the seven-strong field. Maclean's crew started the last day on Saturday tied with *Faster K-Yote*, steered by Bertrand Pace, but the French boat was unbeatable. Eddie Warden Owen, who was at the helm of Babbalaas, said: "It couldn't have been much worse."

SPEEDWAY

Eastbourne quick to pick Lemon

BY TONY HOARE

EASTBOURNE boosted their struggling team by signing a rider often painted as the villain at the Sussex track when they agreed a deal with Mark Lemon, the Australia international.

Lemon, who missed the Australian season because of a knee injury and was put on the transfer list at Poole at his own request during the winter, is now fully fit and comes in on loan to replace Seemond Stephens.

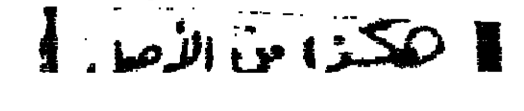
Jon Cook, the Eastbourne co-promoter, is hoping Lemon, 26, will be available for the meeting with Coventry at Arlington on Saturday, as the Eagles seek to recover from two consecutive home defeats.

Lemon's appearance in Eastbourne colours marks a remarkable turnaround, as he has been a regular thorn in the Eagles' side for the past two seasons.

Poole and Eastbourne have rarely seen eye to eye and Lemon became involved in the long-running feud when the two clubs met in the 1997 *Speedway Star* cup final.

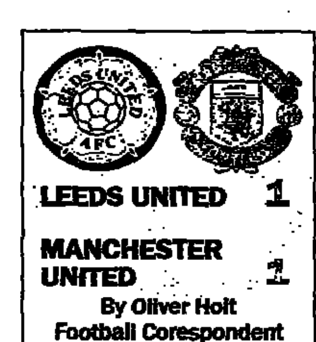
He said that everyone wanted to see the Eagles lose the final because of their attitude and, although Poole were beaten heavily over the two legs, his words have never been forgotten in Eastbourne.

Cook was happier to stress the positive aspects of having a track specialist in his side in time for the league campaign. "Mark has been a target of ours for a long time and we are very pleased to sign him," he said.



FA Carling Premiership: O'Leary's young side displays richness of its potential

Leeds stake claim as pretenders to throne



LEEDS UNITED 1
MANCHESTER UNITED 1

By Oliver Holt
Football Corespondent

IN THE midst of their increasingly gripping struggle to dominate the present. Manchester United got a worrying glimpse of the future at Elland Road yesterday when a vibrant Leeds United side, buzzing with youthful energy and precocious skills, took them to the limits of their endurance. It may be too late for David O'Leary's side to enter the championship contest, but they played with such verve and commitment that recent suggestions that their evolution is following a similar path to the one masterminded by Alex Ferguson gained considerably more credence.

In the process of dashing Mancunian hopes of returning to the top of the FA Carling Premiership, they also made a bold statement of intent. Ferguson has Arsenal and Chelsea to worry about this season, but this was a warning that next year, and in years to come, Leeds will be more concerned with emulating them than frustrating them.

Even if Manchester United were some way short of their best, even if the heroics of the past two weeks appeared to have taken their toll on David Beckham and Dwight Yorke in particular, a Leeds side that contained six players under the age of 21 did more to expose their fatigue than many others could have done.

They had one piece of good fortune, when Yorke missed a chance to win the match with what was, literally, the last kick of the game, blazing his shot high over the bar after a one-two with Teddy Sheringham — but they had proved by then that they deserved their luck.

In Harry Kewell, the young Australian, they had the game's outstanding player. Time and again, Kewell marauded through the middle of the Manchester United midfield, splitting them open with his dashing runs and his precise, incisive passing. Roy Keane and Nicky Butt were their usual combative selves, but even in this department, Leeds outdid them. David Batty and his apprentices, Lee Bowyer and Stephen McPhail, choked their opponents whenever they had possession.

In attack, Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink and Alan Smith were a constant source of discomfort to David May, a late replacement for Jaap Stam, and Wes Brown. At the back, Jonathon Woodgate was a commanding, unflustered presence who will surely become a full England regular sooner rather than later.

Kewell had given the first hint of what was to come in the third minute, when he skipped past a lunge from Keane and crossed deep to the back post, where the unmarked Bowyer should have done better than to head on to the roof of the net. Leeds went close again in the eleventh minute, when May failed to clear Bowyer's cross and Smith thumped his shot into Schmeichel's chest.

Smith wasted an even better chance two minutes later after Kewell had caused havoc and slipped a pass out to the right of the area. Smith, usually a deadly finisher, dragged his shot wide.

Leeds's single moment of anxiety in the first half came when Beckham's corner squirted through to the far post, where May tried to prod it in. Martyn, flat on his back, kicked it away and then did so again when Cole stabbed it goalwards.

Kewell missed another chance when he glanced a header wide from a corner by Harte corner, but he made amends soon after that by creating the opportunity that put Leeds ahead. He picked the ball up just inside the Manchester United half after a careless pass from Butt had eluded Keane. When he reached the edge of the area, he threaded a pass through to Hasselbaink and the Dutch forward tricked Schmeichel into thinking that he was going to try to take the ball round him before squeezing his shot inside him and in off the post.

However, the visitors did not buckle. They dragged themselves back into the game at the start of the second half and equalised in the 55th minute, when Keane's cross was met by Butt. Martyn parried his header and Cole forced it over the line from close range, injuring Woodgate at the same time.

After that, the frenetic pace of the game slowed and the chances became fewer. Smith failed to make the most of a slip by Brown 13 minutes from the end, shooting straight at Schmeichel, but if Yorke had scored in injury time, defeat would have been hard for Leeds to swallow. O'Leary, who signed a new five-year contract worth an estimated £6 million yesterday morning, had no thoughts of gratitude or relief, merely determination to continue the pursuit of Manchester United next season.

"I have got a fantastic group of young lads here," O'Leary said. "They can cope with the big occasions, don't worry about that. They want to play on the big stage, believe me. United are our yardstick and in the years to come we will be chasing them and hounding them, home and away."

Ferguson's consolation, perhaps, is that Arsenal and Chelsea have still to negotiate Leeds in their own run-ins. King-makers this season, they may yet be the kings before long.

LEEDS UNITED (4-3-3): N Martyn — M Jones, J Woodgate (sub D Wetherall, 59min), L Radebe, I Harte — L Bowyer, D Batty, S McPhail — H Kewell, A Smith, J F Hasselbaink (sub C Wijnhard, 86)

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P Schmeichel — G Neville, W Brown, D May, D Irwin (sub P Neville, 72) — D Beckham (sub P Scholes, 84), R Keane, N Butt, J Blomqvist (sub E Sheringham, 77) — A Cole, D Yorke

Referee: D Gallagher.

PHOTOGRAPHS: MARC ASPLAND



Hasselbaink squeezes his shot past Schmeichel, the Manchester United goalkeeper, to put Leeds United ahead at Elland Road yesterday



Cole, right, and Jones get in a tangle as Yorke looks on yesterday

Scotland affected by injury crisis

By Our Sports Staff

CRAIG BROWN, the Scotland manager, was pondering his options yesterday as injury problems mounted within his squad ahead of the international against Germany, the European champions, in Bremen on Wednesday.

David Hopkin, the Leeds United midfield player, missed the FA Carling Premiership game against Manchester United yesterday with an ankle injury. Craig Burley, of Celtic, is doubtful after picking up a knee injury in the 1-0 defeat by St Johnstone on Saturday and Jackie McNamara, his team-mate, could also be ruled out with a similar problem.

Billy Dodds, who scored twice for Dundee United in a 2-2 draw away to Dunfermline Athletic on Saturday, is likely to spearhead the attack with Don Hutchison, who scored for Everton in their 4-1 win against Charlton Athletic in the Premiership. Paul Ritchie, the Heart of Midlothian central defender, could make his international debut.

Dietmar Hamann, the Newcastle United midfield player, has been named in the Germany squad and Erich Ribbeck, the coach, has also included several players from the Bayern Munich squad that faces Manchester United in the European Cup final next month. Oliver Kahn, the Bayern goalkeeper, Markus Babbel and Lothar Matthäus, the defensive pairing, Jens Jeremies and Thomas Strunz, who play in midfield, and Carsten Jancker, the striker, are all available. However, Lars Ricken, the Borussia Dortmund midfield player, has a thigh injury.

Duncan Ferguson, the Newcastle forward, has been told to resume full training after consulting a specialist about his debilitating groin injury. It had been feared that he might miss the remainder of the season, after a fleeting appearance in Newcastle's FA Cup semi-final victory over Tottenham Hotspur.

FA Carling Premiership: Relegation picture clears as Forest drop and Everton pull away

Blackburn look ill-equipped for moment of truth



BLACKBURN ROVERS 1
LIVERPOOL 3
By Matt Dickinson

BRIAN KIDD has scoured Europe to keep up to date with the latest coaching innovations. but there is nothing that Ajax, Barcelona or Juventus can come up with that can help now. His management has been stripped to its essence — the ability of one man to motivate 11 others.

The injury list. long and horrendous. means that there is a little that he can do to refresh his Blackburn Rovers team. Confidence is plunging and luck is running against them. Yet. somehow. this week he must try to bring about a transformation before they travel to Charlton Athletic, where defeat could be a prelude to dropping out of the FA Carling Premiership. This is a match to be watched from a hiding place behind the sofa.

Kidd. a talented coach. is being asked tactical questions that are tying him in knots. A genial man. the Rovers manager is being stretched to snapping point and midway through the first half on Saturday, it appeared that his agitation had boiled over into rage.

With his defence already traumatised by a laughable first goal. Kidd became incensed by the provocative touchline antics of Phil Thompson, the Liverpool coach. after an accidental foul by McAteer on Riedle. It did not take a lip-reading expert to guess that the Middleton Middleweight was offering the Liverpool Lip "outside".

"It was just something from the Manchester United and Liverpool old days," Gérard Houllier. the Anfield manager, said. "It made me laugh more than anything." But Kidd, despite an apology from Thompson. was still glowering a long time later. "You had better ask Thompson about it." he snapped.

Kidd's mood may grow darker still because. with four games to save Rovers from relegation — including a visit from Manchester United — only someone with Jack Walker's riches would bet on them surviving. They refused to buckle in the second half and even had enough chances to salvage a point, but the incompetence with which they went 3-0 down after 32 minutes suggested that they are on a course set for disaster.

Tragedy, farce. melodrama. There was a bit of everything from Darren Peacock in a mesmerising display. His back pass to John Filan after 22 minutes was unique, flying chest-high at the Rovers goalkeeper, who could neither catch it nor whack it into the stands. Steve McManaman, who was standing only five yards away, needed only to slide in as the goalkeeper slipped and fumbled having received what they call in rugby union a hospital pass.

There was little that Rovers could do about Liverpool's second in the 31st minute. apart from stopping them passing from the back, shutting down McManaman as he moved down the right flank and closing in on Jamie Redknapp before he unleashed his right-foot shot from 25 yards.

The third goal, a minute later, featured even more inept defending. Peacock and McAteer, who appeared to be waiting for the No 37 bus, suddenly decided to rush for it and succeeded only in colliding, allowing Leonhardsen to break through and score.

"At a time when you can question what attitude the players will have, they went out and showed they wanted to win for the fans," Houllier said. although the Liverpool camp should be wary of too much backslapping.

They played well in patches. with Leonhardsen, McManaman and Thompson buzzing around just behind Riedle, but can Houllier really be certain that they would have done so had they not been handed such an early and impregnable lead?

Meanwhile, Kidd sought solace in his side's performance in the second half, during which they pulled a goal back through Damien Duff's 18-yard volley in the 63rd minute and went close to a second on several occasions.

Nevertheless, it is evident that desperate circumstances are forcing players on to the pitch when not match-fit. These include Henchoz, who grimaced with pain from a groin strain, and Gallacher, who was understandably subdued on his first start since last year.

Admirably, Kidd is still attempting to see the bigger picture and talking of redeveloping the club and nurturing its roots. "I worked my way up from the youth at Manchester United over more than ten years, so I have seen how it can happen on and off the pitch." he said — but he will know that it is the minor details that count at this stage of the season, such as Wilcox playing out of position and Ward struggling to hold up the ball. Blackburn cannot afford fragility of mind or body when they take that desperate ride into The Valley.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2) J Filan — J McAteer, S Henchoz, D Peacock, G Croft — D Johnson (sub: D Dunn, 52min), L Carsley, J Wilcox, D Duff — K Gallacher, A Ward

LIVERPOOL (4-5-1) B Friedel — R Song (sub. B T Kvarme, 83), J Carragher, S Staunton, D Matteo — D Thompson, O Leonhardsen, P Ince, J Redknapp, S McManaman — K Riedle (sub: S Dundee, 79)

Referee: R Harris

RELEGATION RUN-IN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Coventry	35	10	7	18	35	48	37
Blackburn	34	7	11	16	36	49	32
Charlton	35	7	11	17	37	52	32
Southampton	35	8	8	19	31	63	32
Nottm F.	35	4	9	22	30	68	21

COVENTRY: May 1: Wimbledon (h). **May 8:** Derby (a) **May 16:** Leeds (h)

BLACKBURN: May 1: Charlton (a) **May 8:** Nottingham Forest (h). **May 12:** Manchester United (h). **May 16:** Newcastle (a)

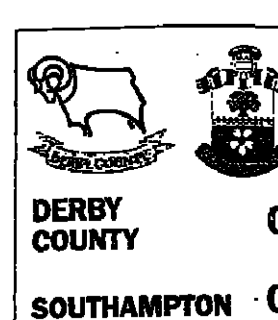
CHARLTON: May 1: Blackburn (h). **May 8:** Aston Villa (a). **May 16:** Sheffield Wednesday (h).

SOUTHAMPTON: May 1: Leicester (h) **May 8:** Wimbledon (a). **May 16:** Everton (h)

PETER WILCOCK


Kidd is wondering whether the tide will turn in time for his Blackburn team

Football feast offers little nourishment



DERBY COUNTY 0
SOUTHAMPTON 0
By George Caulkin

THERE are certain combinations that simply do not gel. no matter how worthy the individual ingredients. Just as sun-dried tomatoes should not be paired with chips, nor, under any circumstances. anchovies with custard. so professional sport makes for uneasy digestion when. for one side at least, nothing is at stake.

Fusion football leaves an unpleasant taste: Derby County, vastly superior but mired in the apathy of having so little to play for: Southampton, desperate to wriggle free of the sweaty clutches of relegation, seeping confidence and lacking quality. No goals. no fun and a side-order of ham-fisted effort.

It was a result that sated the appetite of neither. even if the wounds inflicted upon Blackburn Rovers and Charlton Athletic made Southampton's point glitter like a trophy. It was illusory. however. Even if they were to finish fourth from bottom in the FA Carling Premiership — which, laughably. in the circumstances. Dave Jones described as "the best in the world" — another season of strain and purgatory surely beckons.

Within the confines of this quite dreadful exhibition. that prospect appears no closer this morning. "We expected Southampton to come after us, because they needed to win. but they didn't," Jim Smith. the Derby manager, shrugged. Seven consecutive defeats away from home have palpably curbed all adventure, all but the most defensive sensibilities. but this was a match that could have offered more.

By the end of a dispiriting afternoon, only the feline form of Neil Moss soared above the general morass. On three occasions in a lopsided second-half — a marked improvement on the first, nonetheless — the Southampton goalkeeper flung himself at the feet of his aggressors. Twice, Dean Sturridge, the substitute. was repelled in this manner. while a fortunate knee blocked a stubbed shot from Darryl Powell.

"I would have preferred all three points. which would have taken us out of the bottom three, but you can't have everything." Jones said. neglecting to mention that something. anything. would have sufficed.

"I've got to be happy with a clean sheet. the way we battled and threw ourselves in front of the ball. It's still very tight, but we've got to make sure that. when we play at home next week. we don't let all this hard work go to waste."

It will be different at The Dell. of course. even if Leicester City. Southampton's forthcoming opponents, are another team already mentally packing their suitcases for the summer. At their own compact ground, Southampton have not lost since Boxing Day. Perhaps the elusive Matt Le Tissier will have recovered from the convenient calf strain that prompted his absence on Saturday. Perhaps the sun will shine. Perhaps there will be no more war. policemen will wear daisies in their hair and burger vans will declare a moratorium on GM foods.

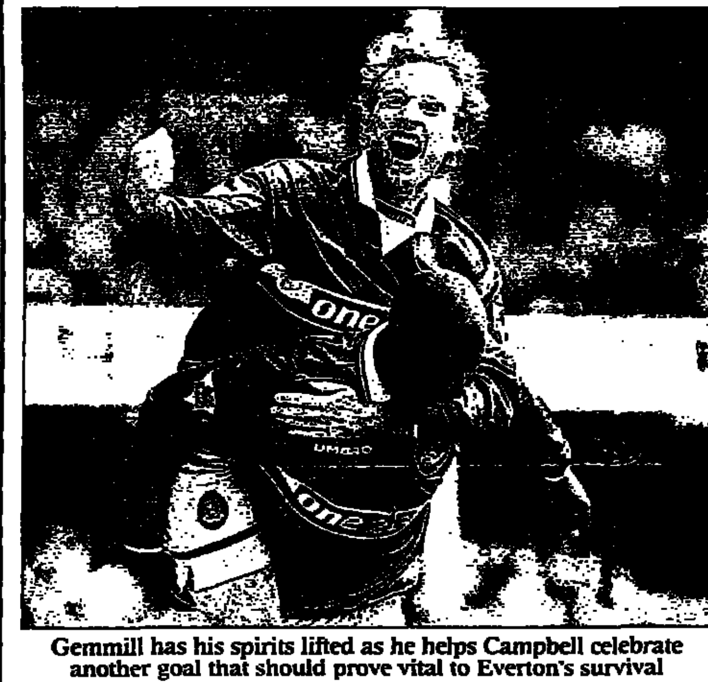
At Pride Park — even the name was a mocking irony — all Southampton got was a couple of half-chances from Marians Pahars. the Latvia striker. There was a long-range shot well saved by Mart Poom, a penalty appeal that died in the throat and a precise, grass-cutting cross from James Beattie, which Pahars. in a whirl of limbs. contrived to miss. He made a meal of it all right, but the tastebuds hardly tingled.

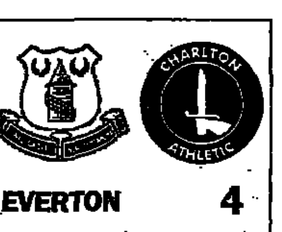
DERBY COUNTY (3-4-1-2) M Poom — S Prior, H Carbonari, J Laursen — S Eranio, L Bohinen, D Powell, S Schnoor (sub D Sturridge, 70min)— M Beck (sub R Delap, 45) — P Wanchope, D Burton (sub K Harper 82)

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2) N Moss — S Hiley, K Monkou, J Dodd, F Benali — M Oakley (sub J Beresford, 63), M Hughes, H Kachloul (sub E Ostenstad, 74), C Marsden — J Beattie, M Pahars (sub D Hirst, 83)

Referee: A Wilkie

Campbell strikes hope into hearts of Goodison faithful


Gemmill has his spirits lifted as he helps Campbell celebrate another goal that should prove vital to Everton's survival



EVERTON 4
CHARLTON ATHLETIC 1
By Kevin McCarra

BEFORE a match, history goes for a stroll. The abrupt, wrenching transactions of the transfer market make it so. A player leaves, but the replica strip remains. Around Goodison Park on Saturday, there were still supporters with the name Ferguson stretched across their shoulders.

It is not just economic reasons that prevent them from buying a new top. These people are attached to that jersey. rather than stuck with it. To outsiders, Duncan Ferguson might have been a forward who scored infrequently and injured his groin often. but that is not how he is seen by many followers of Everton. To them, it was as if the club had surrendered its character when the Scot was sold to Newcastle United in November of last year.

Without him, Everton were at a standstill. a side that could hardly budge from a parlous position in the FA Carling Premiership. Worries remain. but now. at last, the paralysis is gone.

The vacancy inside Ferguson's No 9 jersey has been filled. Six goals in the past three matches, including two against Charlton Athletic, leave Kevin Campbell unchallenged as Everton's leading scorer in the Premiership. More significantly, the forward. who is on loan from Trabzonspor, has helped his new colleagues to win three successive league matches for the first time in 15 months.

The excitement has bred security and the fear of relegation has been evicted from the premises. Of course, nobody imagines that life at Goodison will be made up of harmony and heroes from now on. The identity of the new owners, who are to buy the controlling interest of Peter Johnson, is yet to be established and it is impossible to tell what funds might be available thereafter.

Will there be enough to make the signing of Campbell permanent? There is a risk that his impact will stir the interest of rival bidders. Everton were in their thirteenth home match of the season before they notched their fourth Premiership goal at Goodison. Campbell has hit as many in his past two appearances at the ground. Such are the quirks of a sceptical mind, however. that the forward's prolific form will raise doubts. At 29, Campbell needs to score twice more to reach the total of 100 league goals in England. It is an honourable record, but the present strike rate is a delirious spell that cannot be regarded as typical. Campbell's joy in escaping the miseries he encountered in Turkey and the euphoric reaction of a crowd that yearned for a figurehead have put him in a heightened state of effectiveness.

It may be wiser to simply appreciate the vigour with which Everton have met the demands of the moment. Walter Smith. the manager, felt that the game with Charlton had been "tense", but that reaction probably reflected anxieties over league position, rather than the match itself.

As if the risk of falling from the Premiership were not enough, Charlton must feel persecuted. With his arm outstretched, Don Hutchison charged down a clearance to open the scoring with a shot that squirmed under the goalkeeper, but Paul Alcock, the referee, did not see his handball. Campbell added another from a difficult angle after his first shot was blocked.

In the second half, he combined with Francis Jeffers before glancing Everton's third with a header. Scot Gemmill, a cheap and telling purchase by Smith, initiated a counter-attack 15 minutes from time. Campbell gathered possession and strode down the middle of the pitch, but it was the movement of Jeffers, 18, that delighted. Instead of breaking, predictably. on the left, he made his run across the face of a defence that was distracted by the advancing Campbell and accepted a pass on the right of the penalty area to score.

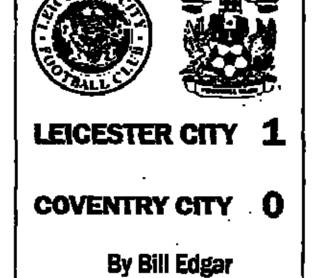
Charlton's thoughts turned to the necessity of beating Blackburn Rovers next weekend. Nothing could peeve the opposition. When Graham Stuart did convert a penalty, there was a cordial reaction from the stands for a former Everton player.

EVERTON (3-5-2) T Myhre — C Short, D Watson, D Unsworth — D Weir, S Gemmill, O Dacourt, D Hutchison, M Ball — K Campbell, F Jeffers

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (3-5-2). A Petterson — R Rufus (sub A Hunt, 67min), E Youds, C Tiler — D Mills, K Jones, M Kinsella, G Stuart, C Powell (sub S Brown, 87) — M Pringle, M Bright (sub J Barnes, 67)

Referee: P Alcock

Heskey inspires Leicester revival



LEICESTER CITY 1
COVENTRY CITY 0
By Bill Edgar

THERE IS. it seems. nothing like a devastating cup setback to give sparkle to a league campaign. Arsenal's loss to the ten men of Manchester United in their FA Cup semi-final replay appears merely to have sharpened their aim in front of goal, while Leicester City, beaten by Tottenham Hotspur's ten men in the Worthington Cup final, have turned their Wembley blues into a purple patch in the FA Carling Premiership.

A deserved victory over Coventry City on Saturday took Leicester's unbeaten record to six matches since they lost the final. comprising three wins. including those at Liverpool and Tottenham Hotspur, and three draws, one of them away to Chelsea. Although the threat of relegation was averted to all intents and purposes halfway through that sequence. a team that plays in the shadow of Martin O'Neill's animated presence on the touchline is never going to mark its arrival at the 40-point safety level by taking forty winks on the pitch. Consequently, the manager could yet celebrate a third consecutive top-ten finish since he took City into the top flight.

Part of the reason for Leicester's revival has been the contribution of their main striker, Emile Heskey. Having attended the same school in Leicester as Gary Lineker and followed his path to Filbert Street, Heskey will further emulate his hero if Kevin Keegan gives him his England debut against Hungary in Budapest on Wednesday.

As if to emphasise the similarity with his predecessor, Heskey used his unfamiliar role on the right of three forwards to demonstrate the kind of wing skills that Lineker displayed when he was reluctantly banished to the right flank at Barcelona. "He made some really strong runs in the first half." O'Neill said of the 21-year-old. Three of those runs led to bookings for Quinn, Burrows and Shaw as they tried in vain to stop him fairly.

Heskey appears to have recovered from the back injury that, until recently, restricted his movement and meant that he was frequently unable to complete matches. His failure to score since mid-December. in part because of his fitness problems, needs rectifying, but O'Neill said: "He has played much better for us since the Worthington Cup final."

The presence of two 33-year-olds alongside him up front gave Heskey an extra responsibility for running, but it was Ian Marshall. one of his veteran team-mates, who shouldered the burden of goalscoring for the second consecutive game. In first-half injury time, a corner by Steve Guppy, who has made the most crosses in the Premiership this season, was headed home by Marshall, who has perhaps had the most crosses to bear in a campaign blighted by a persistent hamstring injury.

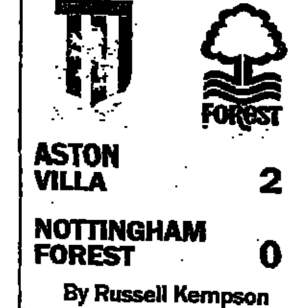
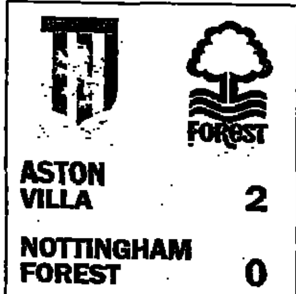
Soltvedt's late turn and shot was the closest that a disappointing Coventry came to scoring, but, with three games remaining. the likelihood of them being relegated has probably become more remote because the chasers beneath them generally had bad days as well. Darren Huckerby looked out of sorts, but if he wants encouragement in a goalless run of 14 games, he need only note the name of Heskey in the England squad.

LEICESTER CITY (3-4-3): K Keller — F Sinclair, M Elliott, P Kaamark — A Impey, N Lennon (sub: A Gunnlaugsson, 90min), R Savage, S Guppy — E Heskey, I Marshall (sub G Fenton, 66), A Cottee (sub: S Campbell, 89)

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): M Hedman — G Breen, R Shaw, P Williams, D Burrows — P Telfer (sub: M Hall, 46), P Clement (sub T E Soltvedt, 74), B Quinn, G Boateng — D Huckerby, J Aloisi (sub: S Gioacchini, 60)

Referee: G Barber

Forest and Atkinson quit big stage

ASTON VILLA 2
NOTTINGHAM FOREST 0
By Russell Kempson

THREE months ago. as Ron Atkinson lazed on a beach in the Caribbean. he received an emergency call from International Rescue. Nottingham Forest needed saving from relegation and only Big Ron could help them. He struck a deal, reputedly worth £10,000 a week, finished his holiday and blasted off for the City Ground. *Thunderbirds* were go.

Fourteen matches later, of which only two were won. Forest bowed to the inevitable and out of the FA Carling Premiership. Atkinson's tan had hardly faded, yet the pallor of failure was unmistakable at Villa Park on Saturday. For the third time in six years, Forest had gone to that first division in the sky.

Mr Bojangles, he of the glittering jewellery and imposing paunch. had had little effect. Perhaps not even *Thunderbirds*, Gerry Anderson's puppet saviours of the world. could have spared Forest from their fate. They were a lost cause many months ago.

"I've no regrets about taking the job," Atkinson said. "It was always an uphill struggle. We battled away, but you need quality at this level and we didn't have it." Would he continue in management? "Only time will tell." he replied. "When I have made that decision, I'll tell the appropriate people."

Apparently, a Sunday newspaper employs those people. Atkinson, 60, the former inside forward for BSA Tools FC, will retire at the end of the season. He will ride off into the sunset and concentrate on his television commentary work and business interests. Big Ron, the wisecracking font of all knowledge, is no more.

What now for Forest, whose return to the Premiership was effectively strangled at birth? Kevin Campbell and Pierre van Hooijdonk, their 58-goal first-division strike force, were parted before a ball had been kicked. Campbell left for Turkey but is now scoring goals for fun with Everton; Van Hooijdonk refused to play but is now occasionally appearing in midfield.

Dave Bassett, Atkinson's predecessor, was dismissed in January but could be found in a Villa Park executive suite on Saturday, entertaining the guests with his after-dinner wit; Nigel Wray, chairman of Forest plc, resigned recently to concentrate on Saracens RFC; and Irving Scholar, the club's Monaco-based director of football, will leave during the summer.

Amid the mess, good news: Forest are/were one of the few Premiership clubs without substantial debts, although that will be scant encouragement to the 200 or so fans who bothered to turn up for the last rites and spent most of a wretched game mocking the players' plight.

Villa won much as they pleased, with goals from Draper and Barry, his first for the club, and rumbled on in pursuit of a place in the InterToto Cup. "I think we dragged Forest down to our level." John Gregory, the Villa manager, said. "It wasn't pretty."

Steve Stone, the Villa and former Forest midfield player, read the signs and deserted the sinking ship last month. "The writing was on the wall a long time ago," he said. "Ron came in for the quick fix, but there was little he could do. His hands were tied, he had no money to spend. You can't blame him."

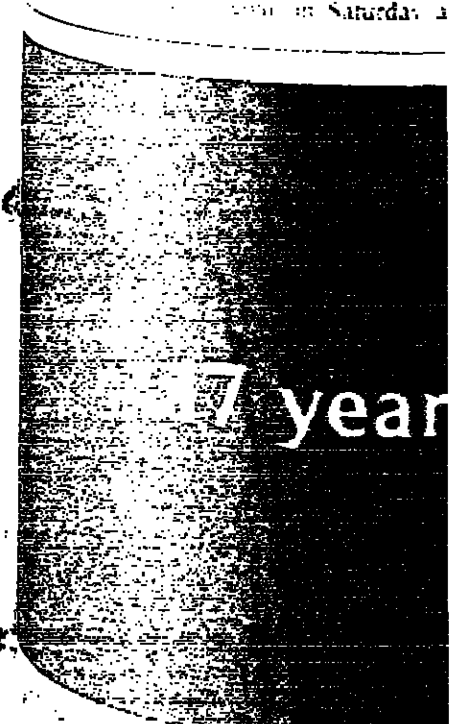
ASTON VILLA (4-4-2) M Oakes — S Watson (sub U Ehiogu, 71min), C Calderwood, G Southgate, A Wright — S Stone (sub M Delaney, 82), I Taylor, M Draper, P Merson — D Dublin (sub G Barry, 46), J Joachim

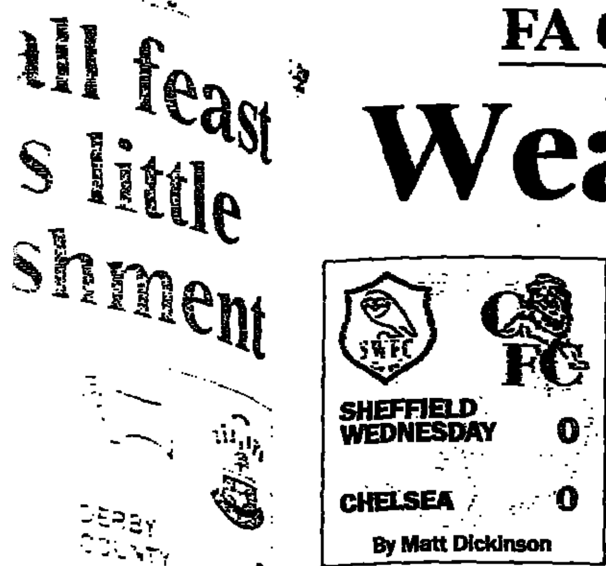
NOTTINGHAM FOREST (3-5-2). M Crossley — J O Hjelde, J Mattsson, S Chettle — M Louis-Jean, A Johnson (sub C Bart-Williams, 56), A Rogers, D Lyttle, S Stensaas (sub P van Hooijdonk, 67) — M Harewood, D Freedman (sub N Shipperley 73)

Referee: P Durkin (sub J Pettitt, 28)

MATT DICKINSON ON BIG RON, PAGE 32







FA Carling Premiership: Two-club race hots up as champions take over pole position

Weary Chelsea concede title



Vialli, the Chelsea player-manager, who restored himself to the team at Hillsborough yesterday, tries a snap shot, only to have it blocked by Jonk

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 0
CHELSEA 0

By Matt Dickinson

WEARY acceptance overcame Chelsea yesterday. They had not even pulled out of Hillsborough before Gianluca Vialli started talking about plans for next season. His players are already ticking off the days before they will be able to hit the beach.

While Manchester United maintain the attack on three fronts, one is proving too many for Vialli's side, who continue to cling to third place in the FA Carling Premiership rather than grabbing it with any certainty. They looked a tired team yesterday, lacking width, pace and the ability to produce the unexpected. Their only consolation was that Leeds United had not made up any ground. Just when they should be flying, Chelsea are playing with their wings clipped.

David O'Leary's side travel to Stamford Bridge next week and a draw should be enough for Chelsea to keep them at arm's length in the race for the European Cup. A top-three finish is nothing to be ashamed of for a club that is on a steady rise, but the deflating finale to their season has emphasised only how far they still have to travel rather than how far they have come.

"It is about Manchester United and Arsenal now," Vialli said after his side's third Premiership draw in succession, "and I think that, with the tough games that United still have to play, Arsenal may be slight favourites.

"It is down to those two because we have just not been able to get the wins recently. We are in a better shape than last year, but there is still a way for us to go."

His team yesterday was substantially different from that which lost to Real Mallorca in the Cup Winners' Cup on Thursday, but the method was just as mundane. Vialli paired himself with Mikael Forsell in the starting line-up, but they could summon no more verve than Flo and Zola had in the 1-0 defeat in Spain. "Where is the goalscorer," went up the cry — it is the epitaph to their title campaign.

Forsell disappeared at half-time, if he had not done so already, to be replaced by Zola, but there was something horribly rudimentary about this Chelsea display. Desailly, who had been switched into midfield, went through the motions, Wise's promptings came to nought more often than not, while Poyet was taken off on the hour shortly after heading wide one of his team's best chances of the game.

Indeed, if anybody was going to triumph, it was Wednesday, who grew more confident as the game went on, while Chelsea, for whom Kevin Hitchcock deputised in goal, flagged.

Their chances became increasingly tempting, the best falling to Des Walker in the closing moments, but the former England defender went for it in the style of a man who had not scored in 263 previous games for the club. He scuffed the ball all of five yards goalwards, but he need not have felt embarassed. Exceptional throughout, he had no difficulties subduing Vialli, whose frustration became more evident with every anguished cry.

Walker was the springboard for Wednesday's sprightly second half, in which Mark McKeever, a left winger making his debut two years after joining the club from Peterborough United, showed promising touches, even if, like his teammates, he failed to also display a nose for goal.

"I thought we were going to get the winner as the game went on," Danny Wilson, the Wednesday manager said, "because that is the best we have played for a long time. I thought the players answered a lot of criticism. We probably need one more point to be safe, but it was important getting a confidence boost against a team as good as Chelsea."

While Chelsea cannot afford to neglect their European ambitions over the remaining four games, Wednesday have some of their own. Uefa's bizarre ruling over English qualification may yet provide a "fair-play place" for the team in the FA Carling Premiership with the best disciplinary record and Wilson's side remain in pole position, with only one booking added to their tally yesterday.

"You have to have a lot of sympathy for a team like West Ham, who have done it week-in and week-out and might not qualify," Wilson said, "but that is nothing to do with us. If they [Uefa] want to give it to us, I will take it with both hands."

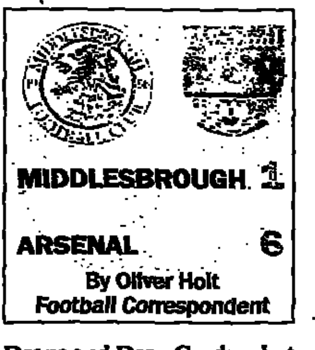
Wednesday's record might have been spoilt had the referee not been so lenient when Carbone struck Wise on the back of the head after the Chelsea captain had pulled out the Italian's hair-band in a typically juvenile prank. Carbone escaped without so much as a caution, while Wise was riled, but could not bring himself to retaliate. Truly, Chelsea have resigned themselves to their lot.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): P Srnicek — P Atherton, E Thome, D Walker, D Stefanovic — N Alexandersson, D Sonner, W Jonk, M McKeever — B Carbone, A Booth (sub, R Cresswell, 79min).

CHELSEA (4-4-2): K Hitchcock — A Ferrer, B Lambourde, F Leboeuf, C Babayaro — B Goldbaek, M Desailly, D Wise, G Poyet (sub: E Newton, 58) — G Vialli, M Forssell (sub G Zola, 45).

Referee: S Dunn.

Breathtaking Arsenal throw down the gauntlet



MIDDLESBROUGH 1
ARSENAL 6

By Oliver Holt
Football Correspondent

IT SEEMS to have come with the blossoming of spring, this return of life after the greyness of winter. These past few weeks, England has been treated to a festival of football to quicken the pulse and stir the emotions. At the Riverside on Saturday, the exuberance continued unabated.

Arsenal's performance on Teesside amounted to a celebration of the sport, a glorious display of attacking, exotic skill that had even the Middlesbrough supporters standing on their feet to appland in wonder and admiration.

This was a match played in the spirit of Manchester United's victory over Juventus, of their dramatic triumph over Arsenal in that classic FA Cup semi-final replay and of Arsenal's own trouncing of Wimbledon last Monday.

It was thrilling, breathtaking stuff. Even Gary Pallister, the battle-hardened Middlesbrough defender, used those words to describe it. Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, said it was the best display that he had seen by any side this season.

It has got to the stage now, with only a handful of games left to decide the destiny of the championship, where United and Arsenal are almost daring each other to surpass what has gone before, as if they are setting new standards of excellence every time they play.

It is not like the traditional climax to a season, the usual glut of tense, tight games decided by one defensive error, one incisive move. This is free-flowing, uninhibited magic. It will have to stop somewhere, but, for now, it is wonderful just to lap it up.

Arsenal were so good on Saturday that their supporters took pity on the home fans. A strange sort of camaraderie sprung up between them, as something special brought them together. And so, late in the second half, the Arsenal supporters urged Middlesbrough on. They jeered good humouredly when Tony Adams shot high over the crossbar, they even leapt up and down when Alun Armstrong got Middlesbrough's empty consolation goal three minutes from the final whistle.

By then, of course, they knew that they had all but wiped out the advantage in goal difference that United had held over them, they knew they had gone to the top of the table for the first time this season and that United would be feeling the heat of their challenge.

Arsenal had taken the lead in the third minute. Patrick Vieira bamboozled Andy Townsend by flicking the ball casually over his head and when he slipped a pass through to Nicolas Anelka, Steve Vickers mistimed his tackle and Marc Overmars converted the penalty.

David Seaman made two fine saves to deny Brian Deane and Dean Gordon, but Arsenal went further ahead seven minutes before half-time when Vieira fed another pass through to Anelka and the French forward clipped his left-foot shot beyond Mark Schwarzer. A few seconds before the interval, the visitors killed the game off. Anelka, keen to impress after some recent lacklustre performances and a game cooling his heels in the stand, crossed from the right, Kanu sidestepped Gordon and curled his shot deliberately into the corner from six yards out.

That, though, was prosaic compared with what followed. If anything, Arsenal stepped up a gear and, before an hour had gone, they went four ahead with a goal of beautiful simplicity, economy and selflessness. Vieira started and finished this one. He played a one-two that freed Anelka on the right and then hurtled towards the box. Anelka cut inside and teed up Overmars who shaped to shoot but passed the ball square to Vieira instead and the Frenchman stroked it past Schwarzer.

Even that, though, was surpassed by Kanu's second two minutes later. Standing 12 yards out, Kanu seemed to have few options when Lee Dixon curled a knee-high cross towards him, but he astonished the crowd and Schwarzer by leaping into the air and executing the first volleyed drag-back flick most of us had ever seen. It flew beyond the goalkeeper into the corner of the net.

Twelve minutes before the end, Kanu turned provider, rolling a short pass to Anelka, who stepped inside Vickers and lashed his shot high into the net off the hands of Schwarzer. It was almost a relief when Armstrong rose to glance home Townsend's free kick, but it says much for the Arsenal defence that even in the midst of this carnival, it spoilt their day. "They did not like that," Arsène Wenger said, after the game.

The scary thing is, it gives them something to improve upon for next time. Apart from that, this was perfection.

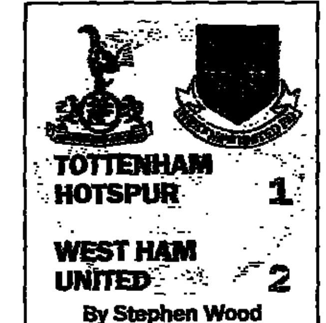
MIDDLESBROUGH (3-5-2). M Schwarzer — S Vickers, G Pallister, C Cooper (sub: V Kinder, 37min) — R Stockdale (sub: M Summerbell, 62), R Mustoe, A Townsend, N Maddison (sub: A Armstrong, 71), D Gordon — H Ricard, B Deane.

ARSENAL (4-2-3-1): D Seaman — L Dixon, S Bould, T Adams, N Winterburn — P Vieira, E Petit (sub, S Hughes, 86) — R Parlour, Kanu (sub: N Vivas, 78), M Overmars (sub: K Diawara, 69) — N Anelka.

Referee: M Riley

Formidable Arsenal: Kanu, Anelka and Vieira celebrate victory

Berkovic restores calm



TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 1
WEST HAM UNITED 2

By Stephen Wood

THE senses were in danger of blurring after a whirlwind afternoon at White Hart Lane, but one observation was undeniable: West Ham United cannot afford, no matter how high the price, to lose Eyal Berkovic.

The only sense aroused when the Israel international had the ball against Tottenham Hotspur was one of rare calm. His positional play, his first touch and the timing of his passes was soothing indeed. He did not score, but he made sure that his team could enjoy a satisfying victory.

No wonder he is wanted at Anfield, as an important part of the anticipated rebuilding work to be sanctioned by Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager. No wonder, too, that Liverpool plan to float the club on the Stock Market, for they will need plenty of funds to prise their target away from Upton Park.

"There are players going for four and five million pounds that are not fit to lace Eyal's boots," Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, said. "Someone would have to pay a lot of money for him, but I am not talking figures because it sounds like I want to sell him. I don't and Eyal has never shown to me that he wants to leave West Ham."

The manner in which Redknapp has strengthened the club is a tribute to his managerial skills. Persuading Berkovic to join West Ham instead of Tottenham in the first place was useful, but now West Ham stand at a crossroads and Berkovic sums up their predicament. Peter Storrie, the director of football, was dismissed at the end of last week, in a move that left Redknapp "shocked and mystified". The side are sixth in the FA Carling Premiership and, regardless of the confusion over qualification for the Uefa Cup, deserve a place in Europe next season.

Berkovic created their first goal on Saturday after four minutes, a move that was finished by Ian Wright, who chipped the ball into an empty net from 30 yards. Midway through the second half, a pass by Berkovic found Marc Keller and he ran on to slip the ball under Ian Walker's body to extend the lead.

Then Tottenham — and the match — exploded into life. David Ginola gave the home side hope of saving a point with another glorious goal and the tension had mounted sufficiently for John Moncur to lose his temper in injury time. He scythed down José Dominguez, prompting a mêlée in the middle of the field and a red card from Uriah Rennie, the referee.

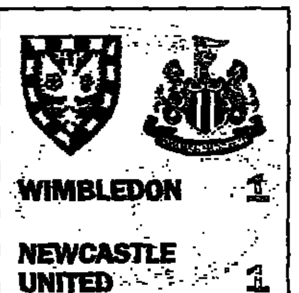
The acrimony did not stop there. Ginola had words with Redknapp as they left the field, one Tottenham fan made a complaint to the police about the celebrations of Steve Lomas while Moncur, surrounded by West Ham fans, showed no remorse for his sending-off.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I Walker — S Carr, L Young, S Campbell, M Taricco — D Anderton (sub: A Nielsen, 73min), T Sherwood, S Freund, D Ginola — S Iversen (sub: C Armstrong, 63), J Dominguez.

WEST HAM UNITED (4-4-1-1): S Hislop — S Lomas, I Pearce, R Ferdinand, S Minto — T Sinclair, J Moncur, F Lampard, M Keller — E Berkovic — I Wright (sub: S Lazaridis, 90)

Referee: U Rennie

Gullit's mind elsewhere



WIMBLEDON 1
NEWCASTLE UNITED 1

By Alyson Rudd

THE problem with a long engagement is that it can become the focal point of a bride's entire existence. Newcastle United have absolutely nothing to divert them from their FA Cup Final date with Manchester United and so while Alex Ferguson should turn up at Wembley his head in a whirl, unsure of the colour of the kit bags and the name of the coach driver, Ruud Gullit will be worrying to the last minute how the napkins will be folded at the post-match dinner.

Watching this FA Carling Premiership match was like having dinner with companions whose minds were elsewhere. They smiled at the anecdotes, even embarked on a couple themselves, but quite clearly the fare bypassed their taste buds and the ambience failed to stir their souls.

For Wimbledon, the distraction has been poor form and the continued absence of Joe Kinnear, fobidden by his doctors to lead the team since his heart attack in March. So fragile is the club previously known as the Crazy Gang that David Kemp, the stand-in manager, opted to bolster the defence when the scoreline stood at 1-1 and it was anyone's game. But if Wimbledon can take heart from only their second point in eight matches, then perhaps the sacrifice of John Hartson, who scored his first goal since his £7.5 million transfer — a strike from a tight angle — was worth it.

Newcastle were similarly insular. Their supporters crammed into Selhurst Park and deserved to witness some passion, but Gullit, it seems, only has eyes for May 22 and the all-important choice of player for the big day. He made five changes to the side he named in midweek for the trip to Hillsborough and will no doubt continue to rotate his players until he finds the perfect combination to outwit Ferguson.

Gullit is even engrossed in the honeymoon period. There have been rumblings on Tyneside that Gullit has three high-profile signings in mind and the identity of one was revealed yesterday when it emerged he had placed a bid of £10 million for Dani, the Real Mallorca striker, whose goal in the first leg of the Cup Winners' Cup semi-final effectively put Chelsea out of the competition.

In the meantime, Newcastle are relying on Alan Shearer. The England captain is not what he was, but even a less sharp version is valuable and he gave Newcastle the lead, after Maric set up Hamann for a cross to the far post.

Hamann will be a crucial figure at Wembley. The Germany midfield player combines strength with guile and, after daintily exchanging passes with Solano, saw Sullivan dive at full stretch to deny him the winner from a vicious strike. That the best chance of a winner came in the first half illustrated how tame the second became.

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2). N Sullivan — D Jupp, K Cunningham, D Blackwell, B Thatcher — M Gayle, R Earle, J Euell, C Hughes — C Cort, J Hartson (sub. A Kimble, 75min).

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-3-1-2): S Given — A Griffin, N Dabizas, D Beharall, D Domi — D Hamann, G Speed, N Solano — S Maric — A Andersson, A Shearer

Referee: P Jones

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

SCOTLAND

BANK OF SCOTLAND SPL

FIRST DIVISION

SECOND DIVISION

THIRD DIVISION

NATIONAL

GOALSCORERS

... Windass (Bradford, 18 for Oxford Utd). 20: N Quinn (Sunderland). 19: I Onuora (Swindon); Marcelo (Sheff Utd); C Bellamy (Norwich). 18: B Angell (Stockport). 17: K Irons (Tranmere). 16: B Taylor (Bolton); D Adebola (Birmingham).

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

SECOND DIVISION

THIRD DIVISION

TORQUAY (0) 2 ROTHERHAM (0) 0
Williams 60
Smith 89
2,396

VERNONS LOTTERY FOOTBALL GAME

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S MATCHES: There were eight score draws: Wimbledon v Newcastle, Tranmere v Port Vale, Fulham v Wrexham, Millwall v Preston, Northampton v Colchester, Cambridge Utd v Peterborough, Chester v Halifax, Dunfermline v Dundee Utd. Payouts on eight, seven, six and five score draws. This weeks confirmed pay out for: Eight score draws: No winners, Seven score draws: 9 winners £6,052, Six score draws: 193 winners £120.50, Five score draws: 1992 winners £5

OVERSEAS

FIFA WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS: Final: Spain 4 Japan 0.

GERMAN LEAGUE: Borussia Dortmund 2 Werder Bremen 1; Borussia Mönchengladbach 5 VfL Wolfsburg 2; Eintracht Frankfurt 2 Hansa Rostock 2; Nuremburg 0 MSV Duisburg 2; Hertha Berlin 4 VfL Bochum 1; Kaiserslautern 0 SC Freiburg 2; Schalke 04 1 SV Hamburg 4; VfB Stuttgart 0 Bayer Leverkusen 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
*Bayern Munich	27	20	4	3	62	19	64
Bayer Leverkusen	28	16	9	3	54	23	57
Hertha Berlin	28	14	6	8	44	28	48
Kaiserslautern	28	14	6	8	41	39	48
Borussia Dortmund	28	13	8	7	39	27	47
VfL Wolfsburg	28	12	9	7	46	38	45
MSV Duisburg	28	10	9	9	36	37	39
SV Hamburg	28	10	9	9	34	35	39
*TSV 1860 Munich	27	10	7	10	39	37	37
Schalke 04	28	8	10	10	31	42	34
VfB Stuttgart	28	7	12	9	34	36	33
SC Freiburg	28	7	9	12	28	35	30
Werder Bremen	28	7	8	13	32	38	29
VfL Bochum	28	7	8	13	36	49	29
Nuremburg	28	5	13	10	30	44	28
Hansa Rostock	28	6	9	13	37	50	27
Eintracht Frankfurt	28	5	9	14	30	46	24
Mönchengladbach	28	4	7	17	34	64	19

* Does not include last night's late match

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Cagliari 2 Perugia 2; Empoli 0 Bari 2; Internazionale 1 Udinese 3; Juventus 2 Fiorentina 1; Piacenza 0 Venezia 1; AS Roma 1 Parma 0; Salernitana 4 Bologna 0; Sampdoria 0 Lazio 1; Vicenza 0 AC Milan 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lazio	30	17	8	5	57	29	59
AC Milan	30	16	10	4	48	31	58
Fiorentina	30	15	6	9	46	35	51
Parma	30	13	10	7	50	32	49
AS Roma	30	13	9	8	58	40	48
Juventus	30	13	9	8	38	31	48
Udinese	30	14	6	10	45	44	48
Bologna	30	11	10	9	40	37	43
Internazionale	30	11	7	12	49	43	40
Venezia	30	10	8	12	30	37	38
Bari	30	7	15	8	35	41	36
Perugia	30	10	6	14	39	52	36
Cagliari	30	9	7	14	41	43	34
Piacenza	30	9	7	14	42	45	34
Salernitana	30	8	7	15	32	46	31
Vicenza	30	7	9	14	21	37	30
Sampdoria	30	7	9	14	30	48	30
Empoli	30	4	9	17	23	53	19

Empoli deducted 2 points.

SPANISH LEAGUE: Valencia 2 Celta Vigo 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
*Barcelona	30	19	5	6	67	34	62
Celta Vigo	31	14	12	5	61	32	54
Valencia	31	15	7	9	47	33	52
*Real Madrid	30	16	4	10	61	50	52
*Deportivo La Coruña	30	14	9	7	43	32	51
*Real Mallorca	30	15	6	9	33	23	51
*Athletic Bilbao	30	13	8	9	35	34	47
*Real Sociedad	30	11	10	9	36	38	43
*Español	30	10	12	8	33	33	42
*Real Zaragoza	30	11	8	11	42	40	41
*Real Betis	30	11	7	12	33	36	40
*Real Oviedo	30	9	11	10	33	43	38
*Real Valladolid	29	11	7	11	30	32	37
*Atlético Madrid	30	9	8	13	43	38	35
*Racing Santander	30	9	8	13	36	42	35
*Villarreal	30	7	11	12	36	45	32
*Alavés	30	8	7	15	29	43	31
*Extremadura	30	6	9	15	20	46	27
*Tenerife	30	4	12	14	28	47	24
*Salamanca	30	6	5	19	24	53	23

Real Valladolid deducted 3 points.
* Does not include last night's late matches

FRENCH LEAGUE: Nancy 2 Toulouse 0; Auxerre 2 Montpellier 2; Lens 4 Marseilles 0; Lorient 0 Strasbourg 1; Monaco 1 Bastia 1; Nantes 0 Metz 0; Sochaux 2 Bordeaux 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marseilles	30	19	7	4	53	26	64
Bordeaux	30	19	6	5	58	24	63
*Lyons	29	16	8	5	45	25	56
Monaco	30	14	8	8	46	30	50
*Rennes	29	14	8	7	39	32	50
Lens	30	13	5	12	39	36	44
Nantes	30	10	12	8	38	30	42
Montpellier	30	10	8	12	47	46	38
Strasbourg	30	8	12	10	25	29	36
Bastia	30	9	7	14	34	40	34
Nancy	30	9	7	14	30	41	34
*Paris Saint-Germain	29	8	9	12	25	27	33
Auxerre	30	8	9	13	38	42	33
*Le Havre	28	8	8	12	21	31	32
Metz	30	7	11	12	24	35	32
Lorient	30	6	11	13	25	44	29
Toulouse	30	5	11	14	19	43	26
Sochaux	29	4	12	12	24	47	25

* Does not include last night's late matches



No holds barred in the Munich derby yesterday as Carsten Jancker, of European Cup finalists Bayern, is kept down by Horst Heldt, of 1860. Bayern were held to a 1-1 draw by a goal in the 89th minute. Photograph: Kai Pfaffenbach/Reuters

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

UNIBOND

PREMIER DIVISION: Emley 0 Colwyn Bay 0; Frickley 1 Gainsborough 2; Lancaster 1 Hyde 0; Leigh RMI 0 Chorley 1; Runcorn 2 Accrington Stanley 2; Whitby 4 Spennymoor ...

RYMAN

PREMIER DIVISION: Aylesbury 0 Aldershot 1; Basingstoke 0 Slough 2; Boreham Wood 1 St Albans 1; Bromley 0 Chesham 1; Carshalton 3 Billericay 1; Dag and Red 6 Hendon 0; Dulwich 1 Gravesend 0; Enfield 0 ...

DR MARTENS

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division. Alvechurch 0 Meir KA 2; Coventry Sphinx 1 Handrahan Timbers 2; GPT (Coventry) 3 Kings Heath 0; Highgate 4 Dudley Sports 0; Southam 0 Massey Ferguson 0; Studley BKL 2 Bolehall Swifts 1. Postponed: Feckenham v Continental Star.

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Arsenal 6 Ilkeston 0; Croydon 4 Tranmere Rovers 0; Millwall 1 Bradford 1.

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division. Garswood Saints 1 Blyth Spartans Kestrels 1. Other matches postponed. Southern division: Three Bridges 1 Leyton Orient 2; Reading ...

Nationwide FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

GOALSCORERS

POOLS CHECK



		HOME					AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	diff
1 Arsenal	34	12	5	0	32	5	7	7	3	22	10	69	+39
2 Man Utd	33	12	4	1	41	16	7	7	2	32	17	68	+40
3 Chelsea	34	9	6	1	23	11	8	8	2	26	15	65	+23
4 Leeds	34	11	5	2	31	9	5	7	4	23	21	60	+24
5 Aston Villa	35	10	3	5	30	24	5	7	5	17	15	55	+8
6 West Ham	35	10	3	4	27	21	5	6	7	14	21	54	-1
7 Middlesbro	35	7	9	2	25	17	5	5	7	22	31	50	-1
8 Derby	34	8	6	4	22	19	4	6	6	15	22	48	-4
9 Liverpool	34	8	4	4	36	20	5	4	9	24	24	47	+16
10 Tottenham	34	7	6	4	25	21	4	7	6	16	19	46	+1
11 Leicester	34	6	6	5	22	23	5	7	5	14	18	46	-5
12 Newcastle	35	7	4	6	24	23	4	7	7	22	27	44	-4
13 Wimbledon	35	7	7	4	22	19	3	5	9	17	37	42	-17
14 Sheff Wed	35	6	5	7	19	15	5	2	10	20	25	40	-1
15 Everton	35	5	8	5	16	12	5	2	10	19	30	40	-7
16 Coventry	35	7	5	5	22	18	3	2	13	13	30	37	-13
17 Blackburn	34	6	4	7	20	22	1	7	9	16	27	32	-13
18 Charlton	35	4	6	7	20	19	3	5	10	17	33	32	-15
19 Southamptn	35	7	4	6	25	25	1	4	13	6	38	32	-32
20 Nottm F	35	1	7	9	15	31	3	2	13	15	37	21	-38

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

		HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
1 Sunderland	44	18	3	1	48	9	11	9	2	40	18	99	(88)
2 Bradford	44	15	3	4	48	20	10	5	7	31	25	83	(79)
3 Ipswich	44	15	1	6	33	14	10	7	5	32	16	83	(65)
4 Birmingham	44	11	7	4	31	15	11	5	6	33	20	78	(64)
5 Bolton	44	13	5	4	43	24	6	10	6	32	34	72	(75)
6 Wolves	43	11	10	1	35	16	8	4	9	26	23	71	(61)
7 Watford	43	11	8	3	29	19	8	5	8	31	34	70	(60)
8 Sheff Utd	44	11	6	5	39	28	6	7	9	28	33	64	(67)
9 Norwich	44	6	12	4	32	27	8	5	9	28	32	59	(60)
10 Huddersfld	44	11	8	3	38	23	4	6	12	22	46	59	(60)
11 C Palace	44	11	9	2	41	24	3	6	13	15	39	57	(56)
12 Grimsby	43	10	5	6	24	18	6	4	12	15	33	57	(39)
13 West Brom	44	11	4	7	42	33	4	7	11	25	40	56	(67)
14 Barnsley	44	7	8	7	33	28	6	8	8	21	25	55	(54)
15 Tranmere	44	7	7	8	34	29	4	13	5	26	30	53	(60)
16 Stockport	44	7	9	6	24	20	5	8	9	25	34	53	(49)
17 Swindon	44	7	8	7	39	41	6	3	13	18	35	50	(57)
18 Portsmouth	44	10	5	7	34	24	1	9	12	22	44	47	(56)
19 QPR	44	8	7	7	28	22	3	4	15	18	37	44	(46)
20 Port Vale	43	9	3	9	19	26	3	5	14	23	46	44	(42)
21 Bury	44	8	7	7	23	27	1	10	11	11	32	44	(34)
22 Crewe	43	5	6	10	23	34	5	5	12	27	43	41	(50)
23 Oxford Utd	44	6	8	8	26	30	3	5	14	17	41	40	(43)
24 Bristol City	43	6	8	8	34	36	2	7	12	21	40	39	(55)

SECOND DIVISION

		HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
1 Fulham	43	18	3	1	47	12	12	4	5	27	17	97	(74)
2 Walsall	43	12	6	3	32	20	13	2	7	26	22	83	(58)
3 Preston	44	12	5	5	45	22	10	7	5	32	24	78	(77)
4 Man City	44	12	6	4	34	14	9	9	4	29	17	78	(63)
5 Gillingham	44	14	5	3	41	17	6	9	7	29	27	74	(70)
6 Bournemth	43	14	6	2	37	11	6	6	9	24	28	72	(61)
7 Wigan	40	12	4	4	38	15	7	4	9	25	26	65	(63)
8 Stoke	42	9	4	9	30	32	10	2	8	25	25	63	(55)
9 Chesterfld	43	14	4	4	34	16	3	8	10	11	24	63	(45)
10 Millwall	43	9	8	5	33	23	8	3	10	19	30	62	(52)
11 Reading	44	9	6	7	27	26	6	7	9	25	35	58	(52)
12 Luton	43	9	4	8	23	24	5	6	11	25	34	52	(48)
13 Wrexham	43	8	6	8	21	26	5	7	9	22	33	52	(43)
14 Blackpool	43	6	8	8	22	23	7	5	9	18	27	52	(40)
15 Burnley	43	7	7	8	22	33	5	7	9	29	38	50	(51)
16 Bristol R	43	7	8	6	30	26	4	8	10	26	25	49	(56)
17 Notts Co	42	7	5	8	27	25	6	5	11	22	33	49	(49)
18 Colchester	43	8	7	6	22	26	3	9	10	26	38	49	(48)
19 York	43	5	8	8	27	32	7	3	12	28	43	47	(55)
20 Oldham	43	6	4	11	23	31	6	5	11	21	32	45	(44)
21 Northmptn	43	4	10	7	21	26	6	5	11	17	26	45	(38)
22 Wycombe	42	7	4	10	27	23	4	7	10	20	31	44	(47)
23 Lincoln City	42	8	4	9	26	26	3	3	15	11	43	40	(37)
24 Macclesfld	42	7	4	10	20	24	3	5	13	16	31	39	(36)

THIRD DIVISION

		HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
1 Cardiff	44	13	6	3	35	17	9	7	6	25	19	79	(60)
2 Camb Utd	42	13	6	3	41	20	9	5	6	33	23	77	(74)
3 Brentford	42	14	5	2	38	17	9	1	11	31	36	75	(69)
4 Scunthorpe	43	14	3	5	42	27	8	4	9	27	29	73	(69)
5 L Orient	43	12	5	5	38	28	7	9	5	28	25	71	(66)
6 Rotherham	43	10	7	4	38	24	9	4	9	37	34	68	(75)
7 Mansfield	43	14	2	5	35	17	4	8	10	22	39	64	(57)
8 Halifax	43	9	8	4	31	23	7	7	8	24	29	63	(55)
9 Peterboro	44	10	4	8	38	29	7	7	8	30	26	62	(68)
10 Swansea	42	9	9	3	29	19	7	5	9	19	25	62	(48)
11 Plymouth	43	11	5	6	30	17	6	4	11	25	30	60	(55)
12 Darlington	42	9	5	6	34	20	7	5	10	27	34	58	(61)
13 Exeter	42	12	5	5	30	17	3	7	10	14	25	57	(44)
14 Brighton	44	8	2	12	24	34	8	4	10	23	29	54	(47)
15 Chester	44	6	11	5	27	29	6	6	10	27	35	53	(54)
16 Barnet	43	10	5	7	30	29	4	6	11	21	37	53	(51)
17 Torquay	44	9	9	4	29	17	3	8	11	18	37	53	(47)
18 Rochdale	43	9	8	4	22	16	4	6	12	19	33	53	(41)
19 Southend	44	8	5	9	23	20	5	6	11	26	37	50	(49)
20 Shrewsbury	44	10	6	6	35	29	2	8	12	13	34	50	(48)
21 Hull	44	7	5	10	24	28	6	6	10	19	32	50	(43)
22 Hartlepool	43	7	6	8	32	27	5	4	13	18	37	46	(50)
23 Carlisle	44	7	8	7	23	20	3	7	12	18	32	45	(41)
24 Scarboro	43	7	2	12	26	38	5	3	14	18	37	41	(44)

SCOTLAND

BANK OF SCOTLAND PREMIER LEAGUE

		HOME					AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	diff
1 *Rangers	31	11	3	1	28	9	9	3	4	38	19	66	+38
2 Celtic	32	13	2	1	46	7	5	6	5	31	21	62	+49
3 Kilmarnock	32	8	6	2	23	13	6	5	5	22	13	53	+19
4 St Johnstn	32	7	6	3	23	18	7	4	5	14	18	52	+1
5 Dundee	32	6	4	7	15	22	4	3	8	14	31	37	-24
6 Motherwell	32	6	5	6	19	26	2	5	8	12	22	34	-17
7 *Aberdeen	31	5	4	6	20	28	4	3	9	16	30	34	-22
8 Dundee Utd	32	2	7	6	12	18	6	2	9	23	22	33	-5
9 Hearts	32	6	2	8	21	25	2	6	8	12	22	32	-14
10 Dunfermline	32	4	7	5	16	25	0	9	7	9	25	28	-25

*Does not include last night's late match

FIRST DIVISION

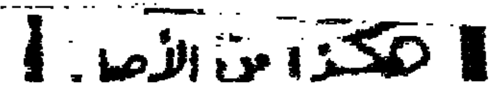
		HOME					AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	diff
1 Hibernian	34	15	1	1	43	12	11	4	2	35	20	83	+46
2 Falkirk	34	9	5	3	28	16	11	1	5	31	18	66	+25
3 Ayr	33	7	4	6	37	23	10	1	5	23	16	56	+21
4 Airdrie	34	5	2	10	16	29	12	3	2	25	11	56	+1
5 St Mirren	34	9	2	6	23	25	4	7	6	15	17	48	-4
6 G Morton	34	5	5	7	19	20	8	2	7	23	17	46	+5
7 Clydebank	33	4	6	6	14	15	5	7	5	17	20	40	-4
8 Raith	34	5	4	8	18	26	3	6	8	18	29	34	-19
9 Hamilton	34	3	5	9	13	24	3	5	9	17	35	28	-29
10 Stranraer	34	2	2	13	14	27	2	0	15	13	42	14	-42

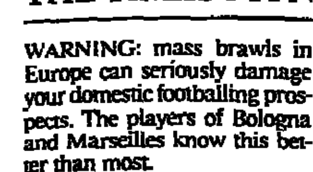
SECOND DIVISION

		HOME					AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	diff
1 Inverness C	34	14	3	0	43	19	7	5	5	33	24	71	+33
2 Livingston	34	12	4	1	28	9	8	7	2	32	22	71	+29
3 Clyde	34	9	4	4	24	15	5	4	8	17	24	50	+2
4 Queen of S	34	7	7	3	24	15	5	1	11	22	28	44	+3
5 Arbroath	34	7	4	6	19	23	5	4	8	17	25	44	[illegible]
6 Alloa	34	7	3	7	38	29	5	3	9	23	25	42	+7
7 Stirling	34	6	3	8	25	27	5	5	7	22	31	41	[illegible]
8 Partick	34	6	4	7	17	19	5	2	10	16	24	39	-10
9 East Fife	34	6	3	8	20	30	5	3	9	19	30	39	[illegible]
10 Forfar	34	6	3	8	30	32	2	4	11	17	35	31	-20

THIRD DIVISION

		HOME					AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	diff
1 Ross County	34	11	1	5	37	16	11	4	2	46	25	71	+42
2 Stenhsmuir	34	8	2	7	33	26	9	5	3	28	16	58	+17
3 Brechin	34	6	6	5	20	19	10	2	5	26	23	56	+4
4 Dumbarton	34	6	5	6	25	20	9	4	4	26	19	54	+12
5 Berwick	34	6	3	8	24	26	5	10	2	24	21	46	+1
6 Albion	34	5	4	8	22	34	7	4	6	21	25	44	-16
7 East Stirling	34	4	10	3	26	20	5	3	9	23	25	40	+4
8 Queen's Pk	34	6	6	5	21	20	4	4	9	18	25	40	-6
9 Montrose	34	5	4	8	25	29	3	2	12	15	39	30	-28
10 Cowdenbth	34	5	2	10	19	28	2	5	10	13	34	28	-30





Vieri's header gives Lazio leading edge

OVERSEAS VIEW

By Rob Hughes

WARNING: mass brawls in Europe can seriously damage your domestic footballing prospects. The players of Bologna and Marseilles know this better than most.

Both teams are under investigation after they finished their Uefa Cup semi-final on Tuesday night with fists and boots flying and the unseemly violence that followed the penalty that put the French club into the final then had its repercussions when both teams returned home. Each was demolished 4-0 in league action over the weekend.

For Marseilles, the defeat could be costly indeed. They lead the French championship by a single point and their goal difference is now worse than Bordeaux, their rivals, after surrendering to Lens on Saturday, with two of the goals coming from Tony Vairelles and two from Daniel Moreira. Yesterday, Bologna succumbed to Salernitana by the same score in Serie A.

At the top of the Italian championship, Lazio kept their one-point advantage after a classic headed goal from Christian Vieri, the Italy centre forward, put Sampdoria further into the relegation mire. Quite a change, this, for Vieri, who, in Rome on Thursday, had contrived to miss far easier chances when Lazio showed disdainful disregard for the Cup Winners' Cup.

Nevertheless, their victory over Sampdoria in Genoa was clouded by bitter controversy. Vieri's goal was sweet enough, coming on the hour and vindicating the best moment that the referee had enjoyed all afternoon. He had seen a blatant Sampdoria foul, but allowed Almeyda to continue Lazio's momentum and Sergio Conceicao to pinpoint his cross to the near post, where Vieri, timing his run, headed the goal.

That was it, 1-0 for Lazio, their first win in four faltering league contests. The £70 million Roman team had Almeyda dismissed for his second caution, an instinctive handball, but Ariel Ortega, Sampdoria's Argentina international, was then also shown the red card, for persistent diving. The referee twice denied Sampdoria reasonable penalty claims and to the end it was a fractious, inelegant match.

All the while, news was filtering through that AC Milan, with goals from Oliver Bierhoff and Leonardo, were comfortable winners away to Vicenza. As in England, it now looks to be a straight two-horse race, between Lazio and Milan. Both Parma, defeated 1-0 by AS Roma, and Fiorentina, who fell to Juventus, have lost ground.

The mood of mourning in Italy, after Manchester United's defeat of Juventus, was not lifted at the San Siro, where Marcello Lippi, who is soon to be inducted as the £3 million-a-year coach at Internazionale, saw the team that he will inherit derided by their supporters and dismantled by Udinese, 3-1. Inter, in ninth place, may not be able to offer Ronaldo *et al* a place in Europe next season.

In Germany, Bayern Munich, the opponents for United in the European Cup final next month, were held 1-1 by 1860 in the Munich derby. Markus Babbel scored early on for Bayern, but two minutes from the end the league leaders allowed Marco Kurz to equalise. In Germany, too, there is a two-horse race for the title, but even though Ulf Kirsten ensured a fifth straight win for Bayer Leverkusen on Saturday, Bayern are eight points ahead.

Spanish fans scarcely know whether it is best to rejoice in pleasures of the present, or the promise of the future. Their next generation handsomely won the World Youth Cup in Nigeria over the weekend, beating Japan in the final, and, as Chelsea will verify, there are hidden strengths to the Spanish game.

Dani, whose valuation has now risen above £10 million, the figure that Newcastle United have had rejected, scored again for Real Mallorca yesterday, the last of six that Mallorca amassed against Athletic Bilbao. Clearly, the island team is still on a high after relieving Chelsea of the Cup Winners' Cup.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: BIRMINGHAM ASSURED OF PLAY-OFF PLACE AFTER RIVALS DROP POINTS

Wolves pay price for penalty miss

Wolverhampton Wanderers 1
West Bromwich Albion 1

BY A CORRESPONDENT

FORTUNE failed to favour the brave at Molineux yesterday as Wolverhampton Wanderers took another tentative step towards the Nationwide League first division play-offs.

Keith Curle, their captain, had the opportunity to secure three points and erase the memory of an own goal that settled the Black Country derby at The Hawthorns in August, 1997. However, his 54th-minute penalty was appallingly high and it will be West Bromwich Albion who derive most satisfaction from the points shared with their local rivals.

Denis Smith, the West Bromwich manager, acknowledged Curle's courage in stepping up to try to convert the spot kick. "It's easy to criticise, but it took a lot of bottle to take a penalty in a match like this," he said. "Having said that, I was delighted when it went over."

Wolves remain in sixth place after this result, one that confirmed the participation in the play-offs of their other near-neighbours, Birmingham City, and ended the lingering hopes of Sheffield United. Now Wolves, Bolton Wanderers and Watford are the three candidates for the final two places.

Graham Taylor, the Watford manager, has asserted that there is no better time to overtake your opponents than on the tape and if his side win away to Port Vale tomorrow night, they will emerge as favourites, with Wolves and Bolton due to play one another at the Reebok Stadium on Friday evening.

Despite the loss of two points, Colin Lee, the Wolves manager, was not downhearted. "We're disappointed but not deflated," Lee, whose team have lost just once in the last 18 games, said. "Everyone at the club has worked for this and there is a massive determination among all the players to get on with it."

Much of that endeavour appeared to dissolve after 18 minutes, when Micky Evans escaped his defensive marker inside the Wolves area and struck his right-foot shot past Stowell to put West Bromwich ahead.

It was a familiar scenario for visiting supporters. Although without a win in their past seven games, the most important statistic for them in what has been a season of underachievement was the three successive victories over Wolves without conceding a goal.

After a succession of passes, Wolves equalised when a free kick by Simpson to the far post eluded those players in a packed six-yard box before Carl Robinson found a decisive touch on ground level at the far post.



DAVID ROGERS / ALLSPORT

Muscat is brought down by Kilbane to earn Wolves a penalty, but Curle put the spot kick over the bar

Curle's fateful moment arrived after a graceful one-two between Muscat and Robinson allowed the former to advance into the penalty area. There, the hustling attentions of Kilbane saw Muscat fall to the floor and Peter Eastwood, the assistant referee who had replaced Mick Pierce at half-time, pointed to the spot.

Wolves had two late chances to win: Keane, a substitute, shot over and with a minute left; Bull, also on as substitute, discovered that several months out of first-team action had dulled his sharpness as Burgess, the West Bromwich captain, recovered to challenge after the striker had been presented with the rare commodities of time and space in front of goal.

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (4-4-1-1): M Stowell — K Muscat, D Richards, K Curle, M Gilkes — N Emblen, C Robinson, S Sedgley, P Simpson (sub: S Osborn, 77min) — S Corica (sub: R Keane, 56) — H Flo (sub. S Bull, 84).
WEST BROMWICH ALBION (4-4-2): P Whitehead — A McDermott, D Burgess, M Carbon, G Potter — S Flynn, R Sneekes, J van Blerk, K Kilbane — M Evans (sub: J Quinn, 66), L Hughes.
Referee: M Pierce (sub P Eastwood, 45).

Gracious cheers offered from top to bottom

Ipswich Town 1
Crewe Alexandra 2

BY PETER ROBINSON

NEWCASTLE United's may be the most passionate, Manchester City's the longest suffering, Manchester United's the most numerous (outside the North West, obviously), but Ipswich Town supporters must be the most fair-minded in football. On Saturday, after their team had been beaten at home by opponents from right at the bottom of the Nationwide League first division, they stood and applauded the victors off the pitch.

No matter that Ipswich's hopes of automatic promotion to the FA Carling Premiership had been holed suspiciously close to the waterline, that their precious second place in the race had been lost within sight of the finish; that all their anticipation and optimism had suffered a shuddering jolt, they silenced a few, frustrated seconds of booing with an ovation that rippled around Portman Road.

Crewe Alexandra deserved no less. They were magnificent, a tribute to Dario Gradi, their manager, and the values he holds dear. Play the game the right way, play it fairly and win on merit or not at all — and they won this match full square on merit, making a mockery of their position in the league. If they are relegated after a performance like this — winning against the odds with just ten men on the field during its thrilling finale — there is no justice in the world. If Ipswich miss out on the Premiership again, they should console themselves with the knowledge that some things are simply more important.

Gradi dominated the day. He had promised beforehand that Crewe would get at least a draw, that they would score a few goals — "it would just be a question of whether we could keep them out" — and played his tactical hand to perfection, selecting just one striker and trusting that the quicksilver Rodney Jack would unsettle the big Ipswich back three. He did and Ipswich, outnumbered and often outplayed in midfield, had no answer.

Crewe went ahead after 63 minutes, Jack swinging a pass wide to the right while Venus sent him flying, then Rivers running on before turning inside Mowbray and shooting under the goalkeeper. It should have been 2-0, too, but Mowbray escaped punishment when he felled Jack inside the penalty area — an injustice that was compounded when, moments later, David Johnson fell over Walton's leg at the other end. Venus scored from the spot.

For a while, it seemed as if heroism and high principles would not be enough for Crewe, especially when Jermaine Wright was sent off, a late tackle earning a second, unlucky booking in the 76th minute, but they would not be denied. With seven minutes left, Smith swung in a corner, Macauley appeared, unmarked, to volley it in and Ipswich could not escape a second time.

IPSWICH TOWN (3-5-2): R Wright — M Theis (sub: F Wilnis, 67min), A Mowbray, M Venus — M Stockwell (sub: R Naylor, 84), K Dyer, M Holland, J Magilton, J Clapham — J Scowcroft, D Johnson.
CREWE ALEXANDRA (4-5-1): J Kearton — D Wright, S Macauley, D Walton, S Smith — M Rivers, J Wright, D Murphy, P Charnock (sub. L Unsworth, 90), S Johnson — R Jack (sub. C Little, 88).
Referee: C Wilkes.

London stage in state of collapse

Queens Park Rangers 1
Bradford City 3

BY KEITH PIKE

QUIZ question: who finished the inaugural Premier League campaign as the capital's top club? No. Wrong again. Not them, either. Yes, it really was. Queens Park Rangers' fall from grace has been dramatic and traumatic and the lift may not have reached the ground floor yet.

The club that lorded it over London so recently could find next season that only Barnet are operating at a lower level and, let's face it, life doesn't get more undistinguished than that. "Results don't lie and our results over the past two years speak for themselves." Gerry Francis, the director of football, admitted after their defeat to Bradford City on Saturday. "This is a good football club, but it needs a lot of help."

What it needs most of all, though, is a win. Any win. Three points would almost certainly be enough to prevent QPR's descent into the Nationwide League second division, but they have hit poor form again at exactly the wrong time. This was their fourth successive defeat and they have the best part of a full team either crocked or banned with only two games left.

"I don't think anyone's too good to go down," Francis said. QPR are certainly not too good. A club that could once boast Bowles and Marsh, that finished fifth in the Premier League as recently as 1993 with Ferdinand and Wilkins to the fore, is now dependent on the likes of Baraclough, Kulcsar and Jeanne for salvation. Fine players they may prove to be in time; but time is not on QPR's side.

For half an hour, their mix of perspiration and desperation — inspiration was strictly off limits — matched Bradford's more measured approach. But once they had gone behind to Beagrie's goal against the run of play, QPR were a beaten side. Worse still, they looked like they knew it.

Westwood struck a second on the hour. Gallen gave QPR brief hope with ten minutes left, but Watson hit a third for Bradford after Westwood and Ready had gone forehead to forehead like a pair of stags without the antlers (or the intelligence). Both feigned their innocence. Both went through the motions of appearing distraught at being sent off. Both, to be honest, made complete fools of themselves.

Bradford did not need telling the significance of the day's events, here and at Portman Road. Their goal tally is so superior to Ipswich Town's that victories against Oxford United on Saturday and away to Wolverhampton Wanderers eight days later will see them promoted to heights that were last attained in 1922. What an achievement that would be.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-2): L Harper — T Breacker, K Ready, D Maddix, I Baraclough — L Jeanne (sub: A Linighan, 90min), G Kulcsar (sub: P Murray, 62), G Peacock, K Rowland (sub: I Dowie, 62) — K Gallen, S Slade
BRADFORD CITY (4-4-2): G Walsh — S Wright, J Dreyer, A Westwood, W Jacobs (sub: A O'Brien, 38) — L Sharpe, G Whalley, S McCall, P Beagrie — R Blake (sub: D Windass, 75), L Mills (sub G Watson, 87)
Referee: R Styles

Taylor intends to go for broke

Watford 2
Crystal Palace 1

BY KEVIN EASON

EVEN as the final whistle sounded, a tracksuited Graham Taylor was urging his Watford players into attack, his arms whirling like a demented air steward, pointing out the exits which lead to the FA Carling Premiership.

Taylor says that this will be the week that could decide whether his side will be in the Nationwide League first division play-offs. They have a tough game away to Port Vale tomorrow, one they have to win to retain hopes of gaining a place among the contenders.

Yet while everything is going their way — Watford are the team in form, this victory being their fifth in succession — Taylor is only too conscious of the fact that they could lose out by virtue of the number of goals scored if they finish equal on points for the fourth play-off position. It was agony for him as his players shot over the bar, wide of the posts and almost anywhere but into the net — and then he had to suffer further as Palace pummelled his defence into giving away a late goal.

"The last ten minutes were really nerve-racking because we had not been able to kill them off with a third goal," he said. "That has happened to us in the last few games where we have not finished the job. We need the goals just to make sure."

Their first on Saturday, after six minutes, was a gift from Sun Jihai. Micah Hyde had performed valiant work to get to the byline, but his cross was a trickling effort that could have been dealt with easily by Kevin Miller, the Palace goalkeeper. Unfortunately, in the words of Steve Coppell, the Palace manager, there was a "communications breakdown". The goalkeeper called, but the Chinese defender swished at the ball and helped it into the net while Miller stood baffled.

At least Palace, with little to play for but pride, did not lie down, playing with three forwards to trouble the Watford defence. That always had the promotion-chasers on edge, Taylor said, and confirmed his opinion that Coppell's young side is one of potential.

A goal from Tommy Mooney, after 53 minutes, still did not settle the nerves, particularly when Palace, after 87 minutes, managed a meaningful cross that Morrison flicked on and McKenzie headed into the net.

Nevertheless, Watford won through. Three games left and all must be won if they are to reach the target of 79 points set by Taylor. "We would be desperately unlucky not to be in the play-offs with a total like that," he said. "It is up to us now, nobody else."

WATFORD (4-4-2): A Chamberlain — D Bazeley, R Page, S Palmer, P Robinson — P Kennedy, R Johnson, M Hyde, N Wright (sub: T Smith, 79min) — T Mooney, G Whittingham (sub. M Ngonge, 45)
CRYSTAL PALACE (3-5-2): K Miller — G Petric (sub A Frampton, 6), D Woozley, H Mullins — Sun Jihai (sub. W Carlisle, 45), S Thompson (sub: G Graham, 77), Fan Zhiyi, C Foster, D Austin — L McKenzie, C Morrison
Referee: E Lomas.

Bristol rage over life's injustices

Bristol City 1
Birmingham City 2

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

IT IS an unquestioned part of football lore that when you are struggling, nothing goes in your favour. Followers of Bristol City would concur with that after a game in which all the significant decisions — a disallowed goal, a penalty refused and a penalty awarded — went against their team. To that can be added a poor backpass that led to the deciding goal as the home side, desperate for points in their quest to escape relegation, were instead firmly consigned to the bottom of the table.

In a first half described by Trevor Francis, the Birmingham manager, as "one of our most uncomfortable of the season," Bristol City dominated but could only get the ball in the net once and then saw Michael Dean, the referee, award a free kick to the visitors for an unspecified offence. Later, Dean turned down strong penalty appeals after Jonathan Bass, of Birmingham, appeared to block a shot on goal by Aaron Brown with his hand.

These frustrations were forgotten a minute after the restart as Ade Akinbiyi ran on to Adam Locke's long pass before sliding the ball in from an improbable angle, but they returned within a minute when Peter Ndlovu tumbled easily under Taylor's challenge and Martin Grainger put away the penalty. "The Birmingham players didn't even appeal," Benny Lennartsson, the Bristol City manager, said.

It got worse, of course. Twenty minutes from time, David Howells mishit a backpass and Ndlovu, by now as unpopular as the referee, was on to it to steer in the winner.

The visitors came off under a rain of jeers and, it emerged, phlegm and a steward had to be restrained by colleagues after an exchange of views with Francis, who had had a lapse of memory by the time of the after-match deliberations. "I don't think anything happened there," Francis said. "I was just concerned about the protection of my players."

While Birmingham's victory, together with yesterday's result from Molineux, secures their place in the Nationwide League first division play-offs, Bristol City now face a game of enormous importance away to Crewe Alexandra tomorrow evening and will be without two players away on international duty. "We have to win the last three games," Lennartsson said.

BRISTOL CITY (4-4-2): B Andersen — L Carey (sub: M Shail, 89min), V Sebok, S Taylor, J Brennan — A Locke, D Howells, T Doherty (sub: G Goodridge, 72), A Brown (sub. C Cramb, 78) — A Akinbiyi, S Torpey.
BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-4-2): K Poole — J Bass, G Rowett, D Holdsworth, M Johnson — S Robinson (sub: J McCarthy, 59), G Hyde, B Hughes, M Grainger — L Bradbury (sub. P Furlong, 83), P Ndlovu.
Referee: M Dean.

Promotion's call answered by Graydon's serious side

Lincoln City 0
Walsall 1

BY MARTIN WOODS

Graydon: on the up

RAY GRAYDON'S mobile telephone went off while he was addressing the press after the game. Whoever called hung up on the Walsall manager. Perhaps a joker in his side orchestrated the prank from the safety of the dressing-room, where Graydon has banned such modern devices. It's doubtful: Graydon's side are deadly serious and so is he.

The three points earned against a feverish but ill-equipped Lincoln City leaves Walsall needing just one points from three games to follow Fulham into the Nationwide League first division. The defeat leaves Lincoln shaking hands with relegation.

"It's not achieved yet," Graydon said. "It's not beyond the bounds of possibility that Oldham can upset us. Then, we've only got the England manager at Fulham to contend with and an old pal of mine, Brian Little, at Stoke City."

John Reames, who doubles up as chairman and manager, moved to the Lincoln dugout just before half-time to join Phil Stant, his touchline gesticulator-in-chief. He remained until the final whistle, believing, no doubt, that the dugout is as good a place as any to head-hunt for a new manager. How Reames must wish he had a manager like Graydon: prudence, probity and professionalism all in the one tracksuit.

The Walsall starting line-up cost the club nothing. Graydon kept Richard Green, his big-money signing, whom Gillingham released for all of £30,000, on the bench until midway through the second half. Four minutes after releasing his prized possession, Graydon's side scored. Andy Rammell found Darren Wrack on the left wing and he, in turn, raced into the box, rounded the sprawling John Vaughan in the home goal and side-footed home.

"I'll get excited when the time comes — if it comes. Until then, we'll still be working," Graydon said, mobile off but very much switched on.

LINCOLN CITY (3-5-2): J Vaughan — J Barnett, S Holmes, K Austin — S Brimson, P Miller, T Fleming, J Finnigan, D Phillips (sub: L Philpott, 89min) — T Battersby (sub: N Fenn, 77), G Gordon.
WALSALL (4-4-2): J Walker — M Gadsby, I Roper (sub R Green, 68), A Viveash, N Pointon — D Wrack, D Keates, N Henry, B Larusson (sub D Mavrak, 68) — R Steiner (sub. S Eyjolfsson, 90), A Rammell.
Referee: K Hill.

Nerves begin to show

Cambridge United 1
Peterborough United 1

BY ANDY STEPHENS

FOR a team regarded as promotion certainties since early this year, Cambridge United are making heavy weather of reclaiming their place in the Nationwide League second division.

Their failure to beat a Peterborough United side reduced to ten men in a derby bristling with endeavour and passion means they have won only two of their past seven games. They still need six points from their remaining four games to be guaranteed playing at a higher level next season and the third division title is no longer at their mercy.

Not that Roy McFarland, the Cambridge manager, is losing any sleep just yet — even if his frantic demeanour on the touchline on Saturday suggested that he is, at the very least, growing impatient. "We've got a young squad and perhaps they are feeling the tension a little bit," he said afterwards. "We let ourselves down today, but I'm still positive we will be promoted."

Cambridge's biggest league crowd in seven years packed into the Abbey Stadium, but it was the visiting supporters who found their voices first when Giuliano Grazioli headed home from close range in the seventh minute.

McFarland's men equalised in the 26th minute when Tyler, the Peterborough goalkeeper, was unable to prevent a low, innocuous-looking cross from Butler, to which Paul Wanless got the slightest of touches, squirming under his body.

Cambridge dominated from then on, but Tyler, assisted by the woodwork on three occasions, kept them at bay — even after Andy Edwards, the Peterborough captain, was dismissed midway through the second half for tripping the goal-bound Marshall.

CAMBRIDGE UNITED (3-4-3): S Marshall — A Duncan, S Eustace, J Campbell — B Chenery, N Mustoe (sub: D Preece, 76min), P Wanless, A Russell — J Taylor (sub R Walker, 56), M Butler, T Benjamin
PETERBOROUGH UNITED (4-5-1): M Tyler — D Hooper, A Drury, M Wicks, A Edwards — T Shields, S Davies, R Scott, M Etherington (sub: D Broughton 71), D Farrell — G Grazioli.
Referee: P Danson

Safety in sight for Welling

Welling United 3
Morecambe......................2

BY WALTER GAMMIE

SURVIVAL skills that have been honed during their 13 years in the Nationwide Conference were on proud display as Welling United gained only their fourth home victory of the season at Park View Road on Saturday.

Welling travel to Leek Town, their fellow strugglers, tonight and then have a possible grand finale at Cheltenham, the champions. Barrow, three points ahead, with only a trip to Kidderminster to come, are feeling the draught the most keenly.

Welling faltered only when they found themselves with the unexpected luxury of a 3-1 lead after a pivotal performance from Neil Trebble, who produced a challenging assortment of deft touches, crosses and shots.

Hanlon put Welling ahead with a low free kick and although Norman equalised with a powerful header, Welling restored their lead when Ugbah headed down a corner by Harle. Ten minutes after half-time, Trebble played a sweet ball for Rivere to steam into the area and supply a cross that was converted by Browne.

A goal pulled back by Heald, a substitute, served to increase Welling's doubts, but they held out in a fractious finish. No one will bet against them escaping again, especially as Barrow, who are in administration, might go out anyway.

WELLING UNITED (4-3-3): G Knight — A Rivere, T Skiverton, L Watts, M Harle — R Hanlon, J Ugbah, M Rutherford — S Browne, Z Rowe, N Trebble (sub. D Brown, 88min)
MORECAMBE (4-4-2). S McIlhargey — A Fensome, K Mayers, D Hall, K Tavano — D Gardener (sub. A Heald, 75), S Drummond, B Keeling, M Shirley — J Norman, W Curtis (sub: P Burns, 64)
Referee: N Parkin
Relegation run-in: Southport: April 28: Kingstonian (a). May 1: Forest Green (a). **Barrow:** May 1: Kidderminster (a). **Welling United:** Tonight: Leek (a). May 1: Cheltenham (a). **Leek Town:** Tonight: Welling (h). May 1: Northwich Victoria (h).

MONDAY MATTERS

Great showman's final bow

Even the manner of announcing his retirement was vintage Big Ron, says **Matt Dickinson**



From player to coach, Atkinson's career spanned 28 years and 11 jobs, taking in some modest success along the way. Photograph: David Jones

One can only assume that it was for light relief rather than salvation that Nottingham Forest hired Ron Atkinson this season, and even his jokes had lost their sparkle by the end. Now he has announced that he will retire this summer and we will not see his like again, except perhaps in the music halls of Blackpool. His dodgy tan and weak gags would make him a perfect compère and he already has the catchphrase. "Come on down," as he told the Forest supporters.

Big Ron could manage football clubs for fun, but, like anyone who relies too much on laughter to make themselves popular, the fun was increasingly at his expense. It was clear that he had lost his comic timing when he arrived at Forest in January and, swept away by the faint ripple of applause from the terraces, promptly sat down in the Arsenal dugout.

"I knew it was the wrong one when the some guy introduced himself as Dennis Bergkamp," Atkinson quipped, but we were already laughing at, rather than with, him. Forest lost 1-0 and the jokes, like his team, became increasingly laboured.

The announcement of his impending departure from the City Ground was barely more dignified. With his exclusive story sold already to one Sunday tabloid, Atkinson ducked and dived through his obligatory press conference after the 2-0 defeat away to Aston Villa on Saturday, which condemned Forest to the Nationwide League first division. "You'll be the last to know," he said, before taking the money and running.

To be fair, as Big Ron would say, he enlivened more than his share of back pages during a managerial career that has lasted 28 years and 11 jobs. He even had a bit of success along the way, a modest player with Oxford United who worked his way up the ladder from Cambridge United, where he enjoyed successive promotions in the late Seventies, to West Bromwich Albion, where he guided a modest club into Europe.

However, it was his five years at Manchester United between 1981 and 1986 that best characterised a coach who was always regarded as too decadent to join the greats. Not for him the austere work ethic of a Wenger, Graham or Ferguson and his flash style appeared to have rubbed off on his team when they began the 1985 season with nine straight wins and ended up squandering a ten-point lead.

> 'I know the champagne and jewellery image has stuck with me'

"There was only one factor to blame for me failing to win the title," he insisted, "Liverpool." But the players' drinking culture, which his successor quickly banished, can hardly have helped.

The rest of his career brought occasional triumphs (the Littlewoods Cup with Sheffield Wednesday, the Coca-Cola Cup with Aston Villa) punctuating a series of moves. He lasted 11 months on his return to The Hawthorns, three months at Atlético Madrid and less than a season back at Hillsborough, where his contract was terminated, appropriately, while he was sunning himself on the beach.

"I know the champagne and jewellery image has stuck with me," he said in his confessional yesterday, "but much of it has been perpetuated by people who don't even know me. In fact, when I was burgled the thieves were disappointed not to find my place bulging with gold watches and trinkets."

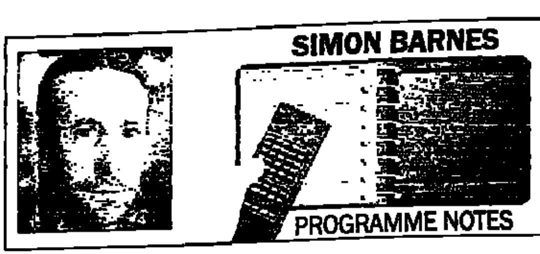
Yet Atkinson has hardly been shy when it comes to self-promotion. His autobiography — *A Different Ball Game* — included scandalous and unsubstantiated allegations of drug-taking involving an England international and opinion was divided, although certainly not down the middle, as to whether it was an attempt to rid the game of the scourge of drugs or a quick ruse to sell more copies.

You would have thought that Atkinson would be the last person to spread unfounded rumours, given that he has had to endure his own share regarding financial affairs. Several reports were published in the mid-Eighties that his transfer dealings were being investigated by the Inland Revenue and although he was cleared of all such allegations, it hardly helped to purify his image.

Soon it will be all over and the game will have lost a character whose gregariousness and passion could not spare him from the reality that, at 60, he had lost his touch. "He thought that he could come in, tell a few jokes and everything would be all right," one of his predecessors at Forest said, "but he underestimated how bad the problems were and he overestimated how much he had left in him."

Certainly, Atkinson appeared to have run out of one-liners by yesterday. "If there are any international committees looking for an experienced man, they can always give me a ring," he said, but it was not much of a parting shot.

Crucible containing the whole of sport



It was one of those moments that said it all. Rather a long moment, as it happened. They even put a clock on it, showed us time ticking away. It was one of those curious, suspended moments in sport in which time doesn't stand still.

It was the time that John Parrott took to play his shot in his match against Chris Small in the snooker world championship at The Crucible. Parrott was faced with a tricky shot during a safety duel with Small (incidentally, it is a strange fact of snooker that the safety exchanges — the nearest that snooker gets to a head-to-head confrontation, the nearest a player gets to making a tackle — are more interesting than the scoring). We had Parrott looking fraught, looking furrowed, looking hag-ridden by doubt, wagging his head, raising his clown's pointed eyebrows and, finally, being a wacky Scouser — surely, somewhere there exists a non-wacky Scouser — grinning ruefully. And it was, of course, rather good television.

The shot took three numbing minutes, 180 tension-racked seconds. The frame took 43 minutes in part of a session that lasted four hours. I thought the only frames that lasted 43 minutes were the ones I was playing in. Anyway, Parrott won in the end, a victory that was put down to experience and character.

All of which was quite interesting. Snooker had its golden age, of course, as it was rising from obscurity to become a major sport and a national obsession. Now it has found its level as a minor major sport — better than being a major minor sport, after all — and if the players are no longer household names in most households, the sport still has its place in the national life and still makes intriguing television.

But the snooker boom of the Eighties changed the way that we look at sport. For a start, it gave us the basic polarities of Steve Davis and Jimmy White. Why did White, who had such a colossal gift for the game — "natural talent" was the preferred phrase — never win the world championship? Why did Davis — lacking such obvious gifts — win it every year?

The popular notion — that Davis was "boring" — was an obvious nonsense. Few sportsmen have spoken more interestingly about their sport than Davis. In fact, Davis's talent for analysis was not only helpful for observers, it was close to the heart of his talent. He had a "natural talent", not for potting balls but for winning snooker matches.

The fact that these two things could be separated came as a revelation to many of us. Snooker told these simple sporting truths with unprecedented vividness.

It was snooker's leisurely pace, the ability of the camera to register faces that did the job. The players' expression of self-disgust and, more revealing, sheer bewilderment as the easy pot rattles in the jaws and escapes, tells the story. Brilliance is the background: one that shows to best advantage the error that changes the destiny of the frame, the match, the championship.

The snooker boom was an education in the vulnerability of the athlete in competition, the fear in the heart of the champion. The long moments of stillness, this being essentially a still game, told us the truth about sport, the blindingly obvious truth that we meet and encounter every sporting day: that games are not won by skill alone.

The annual excitements of the world championship are helped by the stressful nature of the venue. This became not so much a crucible as a Petri dish, one in which sport performs its hideous and nameless experiments on the human soul.

And always and again that cutaway to the non-player: stuck in his chair like an insect wriggling on a pin. This is always the most interesting aspect of a frame-winning break: not the soothing click and clack of the balls, drawn into their pockets, it seems, by some sort of magnetic flux, but the anguish and self-loathing on the face of the person to whom these terrible things are being done.

We see, time and again, players gnawing their nails, or pulling the most terrible faces with the complete lack of self-consciousness that only total involvement allows. Since television has cleaned up its act — they keep saying Embassy but they don't show us the players savouring the consolation of the sponsor's product — we miss the classic shot of Jimmy White: face pale, hollow, drawn and the inside of his cheeks touching as he raised his cigarette. We understand more about the nature of sport than we did 15 years ago: snooker was our tutor.



Stepping Into The Limelight

By Mel Webb



OVER the years, The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge has come to occupy an important place in the hearts and minds of business golfers everywhere in the British Isles. From the inception of the competition in 1993, the aim of its title sponsors has always been to enhance the season-long experience that only association with the Challenge can bring to its participants.

Everybody likes value for money, and that applies to housewife and company chief executive alike. There are credits to be won by the company golf day organiser who can prove to the boss that his cash is being well spent and, if only on that level, the Challenge would represent something of a bargain.

For their registration fee, companies are involving themselves in an event that last year saw 100,000 corporate golfers playing in it and they will also see their golf day featured in the Monday edition of The Times as part of the newspaper's sworn task of Getting Under the Skin of Sport.

Details of impending Challenge golf days are published in this space every week, together with the results from the previous seven days, plus regular editorial updates of notable feats by individual players. If somebody playing in a Challenge golf day has a hole in one, or produces a remarkable Stableford score, it will appear here.

That is Step One: and that is just the beginning. The leading 25 teams and ties in the 14 areas of the British Isles into which the Challenge is divided move into the regional finals, with all expenses on the day paid Step Two. For the select band of 14 regional winners, an even greater prize awaits in the form of a spot in the national final at the La Manga Club Resort in south-east Spain, again with all expenses paid Step Three.

Step Four holds out the promise of the greatest prize of them all. The winning team over two days of national final competition will not only be crowned as 1999 corporate golf champions of the British Isles but will also have the opportunity of representing their country on a global scale in the World Corporate Golf Challenge final next year.

Teams from 38 countries are competing in this year's world final in May and there is every chance that there will be more in 2000.

Just consider it one day this spring, summer or early autumn, one very special company will be holding its golf day somewhere in the British Isles.

One day early next summer, that same company will be taking on the world.

Quite a thought, isn't it?

FORTHCOMING COMPANY GOLF DAYS

The companies listed have registered their golf day for the 1999 Challenge. The top four individual scores on the day will form the company team eligible to qualify for a regional final

Date	Company Name	Venue	Players
26/04/99	CARNAUD METALBOX CLOSURES EUROPE UK	CANFORD MAGNA	26
27/04/99	DELTA VACATIONS	MENTMORE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	60
28/04/99	G.A.P. RECRUITMENT	CARDEN PARK	28
30/04/99	NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK PLC	SWINLEY FOREST	24

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BURBERRY GOLF

Registration Form

The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge is open to any company, organisation, partnership, association or body (not golf societies) based in the British Isles, which holds a business/company golf day in which 12 or more amateur players take part, of which one player must be an employee of the registering company. To qualify for this year's competition, your company golf day must be played on or before September 13th 1999. Your company golf day should include an individual 18 hole Stableford competition, played off 3/4 handicap or be adjusted accordingly. Players qualifying for the Regional and National Finals must have a current Official Club Handicap.

You can enter via the following:-

1. **By Post** Complete the form below and send together with the registration fee of £175 plus VAT (IR£250) to the address below, to arrive no later than September 10th 1999. Acknowledgement will be sent within 21 days.

2. **By Internet** via our event site: GOLF TODAY http://www.timescorpgolf.com

Please print all details

Company name

Name of representative

Position

Company Address

Post Code

Telephone No

Fax No

Will be holding a golf day at:

Golf Club Address

County on (date)

and will be attended by approximately golfers

If the venue and date of your golf day have yet to be finalised please leave blank and inform us as soon as it is confirmed.

Personalised Newsletter Requirements

Please type or print clearly your company or golf day name (maximum 20 letters) including punctuation, upper and lower cases, to be incorporated in The Times event newsletter for distribution on your day.

Company Name/Golf Day Name

Terms and Conditions

I accept the terms and conditions for company registration and enclose a cheque for £205.63 inc. VAT, (IR£250) made payable to ***The Times* MeesPierson CGC**

Signed Date

If you require any further information please call the event organisers on 0171 405 7273 or 0141 221 2225 (Scotland), or write to *The Times* MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge, PO Box 4, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 3DL.

Reference No.

The competition is approved by the R&A for payment of expenses "Rule1.8 Exc. 7RA/64/99.

MONDAY MATTERS

Football's chickens coming home to roost

Rob Hughes on the publication of a book that alleges corruption at the heart of a world governing body

After the Salt Lake City Olympic corruption, surely nothing could further wound the integrity of sport worldwide? Football is giving it a pretty good try.

A book, *How They Stole The Game**, by the British investigative author, David Yallop, is to be released on the British market today; in it Yallop stirs the pot of Fifa, the governing body of football, under the dictatorship of João Havelange.

But on June 8 last year, when Havelange was succeeded by his lieutenant, Sepp Blatter, as president, accusations that the succession was procured with the help of $50,000 each for votes from up to 20 African members of the 204-nation governing body were rife.

In his book, Yallop has raised the tempo of these allegations. Indeed, unable to find a publisher brave enough to print the book in English, the writer set up his own company, Poetic Publishing, to put it on the market. And he endorses the front cover of the book with "the book the Fifa president tried to ban".

To the chagrin of Blatter, his attempts to go to law to suppress Yallop's work are helping the sales. A court in Holland ruled that the book did not offend Dutch law, a Swiss judge has placed a temporary injunction on it, and, although the nub of the allegations is protectively coated with words such as "rumoured" and "alleged", the publication goes ahead here this morning.

The hardback is a significant assault on the integrity of Havelange and the way it claims he manipulated Fifa, which, the 83-year-old Brazilian "honorary" president has boasted, has an international turnover of $150 billion.

In Brazil, some eminent sociological and sports writers have exposed the wheeler-dealing of Havelange, and Ricardo Terra Teixeira, his son-in-law, who is a Fifa executive committee member and president of the Brazilian Football Association. Pelé, in his tenure as Brazil's sports minister, brought out a law to curb the abuses of Teixeira, and Havelange has since repeatedly barred Pelé from the platform of Fifa.

Havelange has attempted to shrug aside Yallop's book. As he has done with other journalists, myself included, he smears any attempt of analysis and any criticism by scoffing that he defeated an Englishman, Stanley Rous, for the presidency in 1974, and the English have been making insinuations about him ever since. Yet Havelange never felt the need to go to the law to prove himself.

It was the acquiescence of a feeble Fifa executive committee that allowed the rumours to take root. Then Lennart Johansson, president of the European football union (Uefa), and Mong-Joon Chung, son of the founder of the South Korean company, Hyundai, began to stand up to Havelange. They were unhappy about his habit of granting television contracts, which, for the next two World Cups are SwFr1.3 billion and 1.5 billion respectively, without approval or discussion by the 24-country executive.

Some of this background is missed in Yallop's book. However, in printing he is braver than some of us who heard rumours, from within Fifa and outside, of bribery in Paris last summer. He may be taking an enormous risk, because none of us knows of any source of proof about what was going on in the Meridien Hotel in Paris on the eve of the vote.

What went on when Blatter defeated Johansson by 111 votes to 80 was clear for all to see and hear. Blatter was asked about "the Qataris bribing people with $50,000 in envelopes to vote for you". Blatter responded: "The match is over, the players have already gone to the changing-rooms. I will not respond to this question."

He has subsequently, and repeatedly, insisted that where such sums did change hands, they were legitimate payments to countries in need of instant funding. There is a case for this, because almost two years before France '98, Fifa had promised all nations $1 million from television proceeds.

The unanswered question is why these advances had to be paid in cash, and why on the eve of the vote that ensured Blatter standing for "continuity" should be president, while Johansson, offering "transparency, democracy, a new road" should have lost the support that he had been promised.

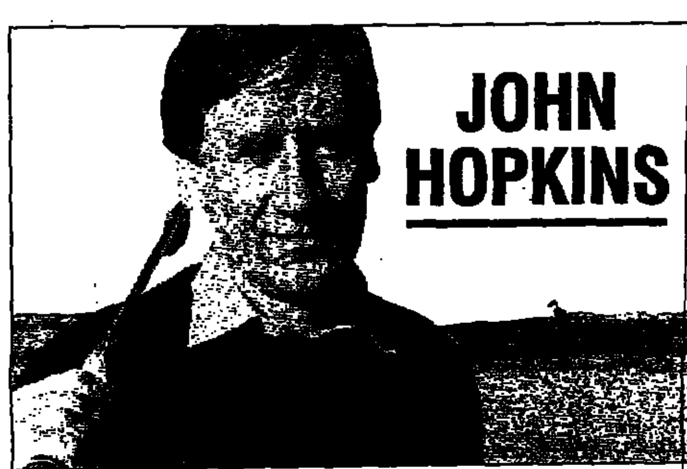
Yesterday, from his home in Sweden, Johansson repeated what he had said on the night of Blatter's victory and all that he has told Yallop on the matter of the alleged handouts. "I will say nothing about any bribes, because I know of no proof they took place. It would be a bad loser who makes such allegations without evidence."

Johansson, however, is "not against" an independent inquiry into Fifa affairs. "I have told the president [Blatter] that we cannot risk what has happened to the Olympic movement. We must be seen to be clean, and if it takes an independent arbiter to look at our books, then we should open the doors. Fifa is not ours, it belongs to the world of football."

**How They Stole The Game by David Yallop (Poetic Publishing, £16.99).*

Leeway on the fairway becomes "a matter of degree" — but Ballesteros should have been penalised

Definition of rules is giving an inch



Did you have a good game of golf yesterday? Two down with six to play, yet you won on the 18th green, I understand. And this despite being out-driven and not having played for several weeks, what with having to cut the grass one day, attend your god-daughter's confirmation the next and the heavy rain that fell.

I am sure that there was plenty of banter during your match, because there always is, and I am sure there was not a whiff of cheating. You played the ball as it lay and so did your opponent. You gave him putts of 2ft and less and he did the same to you. He did not walk on your line on the green, you did not cough on his backswing and you beat him. So now you are through to the next round of the club knockout tournament. Bet the drink you had in the clubhouse before driving home tasted good.

Golf is a game of manners. At matchplay, you wish your opponent good luck on the 1st tee and then abide by a set of complicated rules until the time comes to shake hands with your opponent again, you having beaten him or he having vanquished you. At strokeplay, you ask him his score on each hole, if you have not noticed it yourself, you write it down and at the end you exchange cards, sign them and hand them in as accurate and truthful accounts of your game.

That golf is also a game of trust is one of its strengths. It is a game in which it is understood that each player is expected to abide by a set of rules that are framed to make the game as fair as possible. Only the player knows that he has not nudged his ball on a patch of longer grass in the rough while his opponent was across the other side of the fairway. Only the player knows that the ball he found in the bush by the side of the 15th green was his ball — and not one of the same make and markings that had been lost by another golfer.

Golfers are, in other words, both poachers and gamekeepers. Golf does not send out umpires with every match to settle any dispute, nor a referee to blow a whistle when he sees an infringement. You did not win your match yesterday because the referee failed to notice a knock-on, or allowed seven minutes of injury time when he should have allowed only two.

And so, miraculously we arrive at El Prat, near Barcelona, where Severiano Ballesteros was in hot water last week with other professionals competing in the Spanish Open that ended yesterday because of an occurrence in the first round on Thursday. Ballesteros, playing from light rough on the 12th hole, hit his ball into the trees that line this fairway. It was later declared lost and he walked the 200 or so yards back down the fairway to play another ball. So far, so good. The trouble began when Spanish television later broadcast film that showed that Ballesteros played his second ball from nearer the hole. The significance is not so much that the ball was not in the same spot as that it was both nearer the hole and no longer in line with a tree. On the face of it, this seems to be a clear breach of Rule 20-7 Playing from Wrong Place and Ballesteros should have been penalised two strokes.

The chief referee at this tournament was John Paramor, a very good golfer himself and one of the strongest officials in world golf. He has never been known to waive or bend any rule for anyone, not even Ballesteros when in Spain. Indeed, Paramor has fined Ballesteros for slow play at least once and warned him for slow play at least once.

On another famous occasion at Valderrama in 1994, Paramor denied Ballesteros relief from a tricky position behind a cork tree on the 72nd hole, a ruling that virtually made sure that Ballesteros could not win the tournament. Ballesteros sought relief on the grounds that the place where his ball had ended was amidst some scrapings by a burrowing animal, a plea that Paramor rejected.

On this occasion, however, Paramor ruled that Ballesteros had not committed any breach of the rules. "I asked the player what he had done and what he was trying to do," Paramor said yesterday. "I realised he had replaced his ball closer to the hole, but it comes down to a matter of degree. Was it significantly better? I adjudged it was not because the tree in question was not one that was concerning him. He said that if he was trying to improve his line, he would not have done what he did because this brought other trees into play."

I suspect I am not alone among amateur golfers in suggesting that most times I could return to precisely the spot from which I played a shot. Paramor said that if Ballesteros had not moved from the spot, then he would have been able to replace his ball precisely, but that Ballesteros, having walked 200 yards down the fairway, searched for his ball for a while and then returned, was entitled to get no closer than seven or eight yards to the precise spot in the rough. Paramor cited Rule 20-2b in support of this decision.

"There has to be some leeway," Paramor said. "Take the rule governing the ball hanging on the edge of the hole on the green. Rule 16-2 says a player has ten seconds for the ball to fall into the hole, but earlier in the rule it says a player is allowed enough time to reach the hole."

As it happened, Paramor had just had to adjudicate on such a situation and he ruled in the player's favour after watching the incident on television and timing the player's walk from the ball to the edge of the hole.

"Golf is not a precise game," Paramor continued. "Supposing a player's ball has gone into a water hazard: he cannot tell precisely where it entered the hazard and so he cannot place his new ball in exactly the correct position. The key to this is that he has used his best endeavours to do it all correctly. I am happy that the player did this."

Ballesteros is the one who has to live with himself after this episode. He has to look himself in the mirror each morning. "The rule is very clear," Ballesteros said. "I spoke to John Paramor and he is happy. The rest is history."

In this situation, most amateurs would not have known the rules well enough to have done anything but replace the ball accurately and, if they were found not to have done so, would either expect disqualification or would have disqualified themselves.

Is the conclusion of this story that amateurs should learn the rules better? It probably is. But another conclusion might be that there is one rule for amateurs and another one for professionals.

STEVE MUNDAY / ALLSPORT



At Valderrama in 1994, Ballesteros fell foul of John Paramor, the tournament referee, who denied him assistance with his lie at the 18th

THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

Tomorrow
Kevin Keegan takes a new-look England football squad to Hungary for an international friendly. Oliver Holt and Matt Dickinson look at the players most likely to grasp an unexpected opportunity.

Wednesday
All roads lead to Wembley for rugby league's Silk Cut Challenge Cup final at the weekend. Christopher Irvine reports on Leeds Rhinos' team plans.

Thursday
Stars of the future — have West Ham United and Coventry City pressed home their advantages to reach the final of The Times FA Youth Cup?

Friday
The Formula One circus roars into Europe for the first time this season. Kevin Eason reports on practice for the San Marino Grand Prix.

Saturday
Opening shots: Christopher Martin-Jenkins makes his entrance as chief cricket correspondent with a look at the state of the English game.

PLUS: Football Saturday; top columnists Danny Baker and Gary Neville, plus reports from the PPP County Championship cricket.

TELEVISION HIGHLIGHTS

The PFA Awards
See the cream of the country's footballers honour one of their number when they hand over the Player of the Year award at a glittering gala night in London.
(Today, Sky Sports 1, 6.30pm)

Embassy world championship
Silence is golden at The Crucible as the snooker runs into its second week. Watch out for some new lines in waistcoats, for the Henry Ford era has been overtaken by the vagaries of fashion.
(Daily, BBC1 and BBC2, times vary)

International football
Can Kevin Keegan maintain his winning impetus with England's international in Hungary? Scotland travel to Germany for a more glamorous match against the European champions.
(Wednesday, England: Sky Sports 2, 7pm; Scotland: Sky Sports 1, 7pm.)

Silk Cut Challenge Cup final
London Broncos enjoy their first day out at Wembley, with Leeds Rhinos providing the opposition in a showdown of North v South.
(Saturday, BBC1, 2.20pm.)

SPORTS LETTERS

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

E-mail, including a postal address and daytime telephone number, should be sent to: sport.letters@the-times.co.uk

European Cup final is devalued by yellow card ruling

From Mr Jonathan Lear

Sir, While I am well and truly over the moon that Manchester United won in such a thrilling way against Juventus, I am quite as sick as any parrot can be at the extraordinarily unjust treatment of Keane and Scholes, who will miss the European Cup final.

Even assuming that the yellow cards both players received for fouls were justified, the real beneficiaries of this action will not be Juventus but Bayern Munich, who will not be obliged to face the first-choice team of Manchester United.

European football's showpiece final is therefore debased. The immediacy of a "sin-bin" sending-off would have been so much more appropriate, providing an immediacy that would have benefited Juventus and punished the players concerned, while allowing the final to be not in any way reduced in stature.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN LEAR,
The Walnuts,
Paxford, Chipping Campden,
Gloucestershire GL55 6XP.

Run should be for fun

From Mrs G. F. Long

Sir, I agree with Rob Hughes (April 19) about coverage of the London Marathon. I switched on the television about an hour after the start and settled down to watch the parade of people doing something I could never do — and doing it for charity.

What did I get? Learned pronouncements on the "first group", the "second group" etc. I did not wish to see people running for money and I am sure many will agree with me.

Surely the Marathon was started as something that anybody could have a try at. We can watch athletic competition during the many meets that there are nowadays — and I love watching those as well — but I do not want them to be mixed up. Let's get back to the idea of amateurs doing something healthful and helpful (and delightfully silly sometimes).

Yours sincerely,
GWYNETH LONG,
79, Halstock Crescent,
West Canford Heath,
Poole, Dorset BH17 9BE.

Punish players

From Mr E. Morley

Sir, Why should the millions who do the pools, take part in bets etc suffer because either a player has an angry spell or the referee's decision to send off a player leaves an unequal contest? The only person who should be punished is the player, not the public or team.

What if the yellow card meant an automatic fine from the player's net pay of a percentage of earnings, for example ten per cent, a red card 20 per cent and so on, until persistent offenders were paying 50 per cent or more?

Using this system, the only one to endure hardship would be the culprit, not the millions who have no control over the player, the team or the referee, yet at the end of the day are the only ones who do suffer.

Why, for example, should supporters, people who have placed a bet and the rest of the team, who may lose their job if the team is relegated, be made to pay because Robbie Fowler decided, in the heat of the moment, to act the fool, or Dennis Wise and Emmanuel Petit do a tackle from behind?

Fowler is to have a few weeks' holiday to reward him and Liverpool supporters are denied watching an exciting talent who did something stupid. If he had to pay £50,000 of his net earnings, he might never have done it.

The money, by the way, should go to the development of football, charity — anywhere bar the FA or the club.

Yours sincerely,
ERIC MORLEY,
Miss World (Jersey) Ltd,
21 Golden Square,
London, W1R 3PA.

Final words

From Mr J. S. Hunter

Sir, Rob Hughes's comment regarding "the old enemies — England versus Germany, Manchester United versus Bayern Munich" (April 22) was an unfortunate echo of virtually identical comments made by television pundits.

The cynics amongst us might say that the forthcoming fixture is little more than a contest between well-paid mercenaries, temporarily resident in Cheshire and Bavaria respectively, to whom national identity is of no consequence. Indeed, many of the players will be neither English nor German.

A recent European Commission document refers to "the rise of ultra-nationalism" as a negative aspect relating to sport in Europe and I would argue that comments such as those made by Rob Hughes et al only foster such sentiments.

Instead, I would have hoped that occasions such as the European Cup final — and the final last year was a case in point — could provide a welcome respite from the worst aspects of nationalistic tendencies that are exhibited in international competitions.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN S. HUNTER,
Brunel University,
Borough Road,
Isleworth,
Middlesex TW1 5DU.

Hotline hitch

From Mr Roddy Finlay

Sir, I have never attended a first-class cricket match, but I decided to take my brother to watch some of the forthcoming World Cup games. After much searching, I finally found the "hotline" telephone number in a magazine.

I have now rung this number 40 times and have always found it engaged. This is not the way to encourage spectators to attend and is extremely frustrating. Maybe I will just stay at home, watch it on television and listen to the commentators bemoaning the lack of spectators!

Yours faithfully,
RODDY FINLAY,
Craigellachie,
The Green, Ancrum.

Ace of clubs?

From Mr Craig Lister

I am the captain of Greenmount Golf Club, near Bury, Lancashire and last Saturday, during our club competition, I achieved a hole-in-one at the 6th hole.

A hole-in-one is an elusive feat at the best of times, but it has been pointed out to me that it may be unique for a club captain to achieve an "ace" in a club competition during his year of office.

I would appreciate it if anyone could advise me just how unique it is.

Yours faithfully,
CRAIG N. LISTER,
Bury,
Lancashire BL8 1XY.

Weston's century ensures victory

By Michael Austin

EDGBASTON (Warwickshire won toss): Worcestershire Royals (4pts) beat Warwickshire Bears by 117 runs (D/L method)

IT TOOK Philip Weston, the Worcestershire opener, eight painstaking overs to score his first run, but he advanced flamboyantly to a maiden limited-overs hundred yesterday.

Weston, a powerful left-hander, made 125, with 11 fours and six sixes, from 124 balls, shared an opening partnership of 149 in 27 overs with the forthright Pollard and worked Worcestershire into a match-winning position. With Warwickshire wobbling at 27 for two off seven overs in response to 287 for four, rain intervened for an hour, three overs shy of the 30 overs required for a result.

Warwickshire's adjusted target was 231 from 29 overs, a challenge that aptly reflected how comprehensively they had been outplayed.

Pollard, released last autumn by Nottinghamshire, marked his competition debut for the Royals with 70 from 83 balls before Solanki eagerly exploited the Warwickshire handicap of bowling with a slippery ball. Their third-wicket partnership was worth 49 in six overs, with Solanki contributing 32 before perishing to the second of two athletic catches by Knight in the deep.

In contrast to Warwickshire's slow start, Knight announced himself for the Bears with a flurry of five boundaries, but he skied a mistimed hook to short mid-wicket soon after Smith drove a catch to mid-off. The portents were poor for Warwickshire and when Leatherdale took four wickets in three overs, they were down and almost out.

CRICKET: BRAVE EAGLES BROUGHT DOWN AT THE LAST AFTER LANCASHIRE ALL-ROUNDER'S DEVASTATING ASSAULT

Flintoff flays Essex in brutal style

By Pat Gibson

CHELMSFORD (Essex won toss): Lancashire Lightning (4pts) beat Essex Eagles by three runs

IF ANY England player is going to capture the public imagination during the forthcoming World Cup it will be Andrew Flintoff, judging by the way that the big Lancashire all-rounder blitzed Essex in his only CGU National League match before reporting for national service next Sunday.

Flintoff, still only 21 but built like a tank, scored 143 off 66 balls, hitting nine sixes and 15 fours with strokes of such awesome power that not only the fielders but also the umpires were often in grave physical peril. Indeed, when Nigel Plews called Ashley Cowan for overstepping, it was probably the first instance of an umpire signalling a no-ball with his head tucked underneath his arm as the ball flashed past him to the boundary.

The subsequent free hit, awarded under the rules of this competition and promptly dispatched the same way, seemed entirely superfluous, since Flintoff was hitting everything with absolute freedom on his way to 50 out of 59 off 24 balls, and 100 out of 148 off 50.

The second of his two sixes off Peter Such cleared the Tom Pearce Stand and disappeared into the River Can 100 yards away. Another six off Cowan, in the over that contained the no-ball, the free hit and two more balls besides, landed on top of the hospitality tents beyond the long-on boundary.

He also struck two sixes off Paul Grayson, the second — which took him to his century — cannoning off the same stand and endangering a fielder as it rebounded. The other four sixes came off Stuart Law, who did at least have the last word when he had Flintoff stumped heaving towards mid-wicket.

John Crawley, the Lancashire captain, looked on in admiration from the other end, yet he was no slouch himself, making 84 off 108 balls, including eight fours, and sharing in a stand of 179 in 20 overs that lifted Lancashire to a total of 301 for six.

It seemed all too much for Essex, especially when Flintoff quickly showed that he had not finished with them. Yet, amazingly, they were within four runs of victory when their last man, Such, was run out.

Flintoff had broken an opening stand of 70 in 15 overs by having Paul Prichard caught behind for 45 in his second over. He caught Law, when he was threatening retribution with 55, and Ronnie Irani, on the mid-wicket boundary, and finally returned to remove Stephen Peters and Grayson.

Essex would not give up, however, and Robert Rollins, who had never made more than 38 in a Sunday league match, defied a pulled muscle to make 87 off 51 balls and give them a fighting chance before he holed out to long-on in the gathering gloom.

It had been a gallant attempt to retrieve a lost cause, but the day belonged to Flintoff, who has matured impressively during the winter after looking completely out of his depth in his first two Test matches against South Africa last summer.

By the end of the season his weight had soared to almost 19 stone because of his long-standing back trouble and he was demoted to the A team for the tour of Zimbabwe and South Africa. He did so well, however, that he was added to the World Cup squad after being left off the provisional list.

Since then he has scored a century against England in one of their warm-up matches in Lahore, forced his way into the one-day side in Sharjah and now shown that he is in prime form. The Essex Eagles had been expecting a visit from Lancashire Lightning. They had not expected thunder as well.

JOHN MARSH

Flintoff hits Law for four on his way to a magnificent century at Chelmsford yesterday

Spitfires grounded by Stephenson

By Our Sports Staff

SOUTHAMPTON (Hampshire won toss): Hampshire Hawks beat Kent Spitfires by 21 runs (D/L method)

JOHN STEPHENSON hit an unbeaten 71 as he and Robin Smith, 26, guided Hampshire Hawks to victory over Kent Spitfires at Southampton yesterday.

Stephenson struck 11 boundaries and faced 82 balls as Hampshire made light of two significant interruptions for rain. Earlier, Smith had put Hampshire in a strong position by winning the toss and deciding to field first.

Kent struggled to accelerate and finished with a modest 208 for eight from their 45 overs.

Robert Key, their opening batsman, top-scored with 48, but it took him almost 40 overs and he managed only a single boundary. Key was seventh out and it was only then that Kent started to score freely. Mark Ealham and Matthew Fleming each scored 36.

Alex Morris was Hampshire's most successful bowler, taking three for 59, while Nixon McLean, the West Indies pace bowler, conceded only 26 runs from his nine overs.

Stephenson and Giles White put on 77 in only 19 overs for Hampshire until Julian Thompson made the first breakthrough for Kent when he had White lbw for 25. Smith then joined Stephenson and Hampshire were moving smoothly to their target when the first break for rain arrived.

The home side were on course for their new target of 156 from 34 overs when rain intervened again. They were then 130 for one, still needing 26 from another six overs but, this time, there was no reprieve for Kent.

Gough hits form at right time

HEADINGLEY (Yorkshire Phoenix won toss): Yorkshire (4pts) beat Gloucestershire Gladiators by two wickets

DARREN GOUGH helped Yorkshire Phoenix to victory on his last appearance before beginning his World Cup duties for England (Richard Hobson writes). His late contribution denied Gloucestershire Gladiators in the evening gloom before Gary Fellows hit the winning boundary.

Yorkshire were easing towards a modest target of 146 when Craig White followed bowling figures of four for 25 with a score of 49 from 39 balls. However, the slower pace of Alleyne and Averis proved to be more effective than the new-ball attack and the initiative swung.

Earlier, Gloucestershire lost six wickets in 21 balls as White and Sidebottom scythed through the lower order. Dawson bludgeoned 21 from Hamilton's first over, but the dismissal of Windows, when seemingly set, precipitated the collapse.

Croft display ignites the Dragons' fire

LORD'S (Glamorgan won toss): Glamorgan Dragons (4pts) beat Middlesex Crusaders by 35 runs

REMARKABLY, this was the first time that Glamorgan have batted in any form of cricket this season. It showed initially as they stumbled to 82 for four on a pitch of no excessive movement, before two intelligently crafted fifties from Adrian Dale and Robert Croft took them to respectability.

Middlesex themselves began badly, but never recovered against tight bowling and tenacious outcricket. Croft settled into a good rhythm with the ball, but it was the opening pair of Watkin and Parkin who did most to damage the Middlesex cause.

They conceded just 38 runs between them in the first 14 overs and knocked over the top three. This was Parkin's first bowl of the year and he removed Langer when he seemed to surprise him for pace. There was still some hope for Middlesex until Ramprakash was fourth out in the 23rd over. The match ended in near-darkness at 7.45pm.

Stewart struggles for limited-overs form

THE OVAL (Surrey Lions won toss): Northamptonshire Steelbacks (4pts) beat Surrey Lions by four wickets

IF Alec Stewart was looking for an omen to signify a turnaround in his limited-overs fortunes, the sight of Mal Loye spilling a straightforward chance at square leg before he had scored may have given him cause for optimism (Thrasy Petropoulos writes).

The reprieve, however, only served to reinforce just how short of form he is. Mostly through singles behind square on the off side, Stewart struggled for 21 overs in making 27. Caught in two minds, he was dismissed playing on from the full face of the bat, one of four wickets for Tony Penberthy. With Stewart's innings occupying almost half his side's 45 overs, Surrey did well enough to reach 208 for nine.

Mal Loye opened Northamptonshire's innings with a breezy half-century. Penberthy chipped in with an unbeaten 47 and Graeme Swann completed the victory by striking a six over midwicket.

Sharks suffer from teething problems

HOVE (Derbyshire won toss): Sussex Sharks (4pts) beat Derbyshire Scorpions by 11 runs (D/L method)

MEMO to the England and Wales Cricket Board: this jazzy new National League (second division) still needs some fine-tuning (Mark Baldwin writes). Even the first hint of sunshine on a rain-sodden late spring day failed to attract more than 1,000 hardy souls.

Umer Rashid marked his Sussex one-day debut with a skilful spell on a pitch so slow that Krikken later stood up to DeFreitas, Dean and Cork. Three Derbyshire free hits produced six extra runs but, with neither an umpiring signal nor any public-address acknowledgement, many in the crowd remained in ignorance.

Cork's combative half-century was trumped by Adams, Montgomerie and subterranean light, but by the time the result was confirmed at 7.30pm, most had gone. A steward constantly obscured the Duckworth-Lewis figure, which was highly relevant, on the scoreboard and both teams, plus umpires, wore dull blue.

Progress in dispute over Test grounds

By Richard Hobson

THE lengthy dispute between the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and the Test Match Grounds Consortium (TMGC), which is threatening to disrupt the forthcoming series against New Zealand, has moved a step towards a resolution. Negotiators for the TMGC are prepared to reduce their demands this season as part of a longer-term deal.

Later this week, the TMGC, which seeks a greater share of the central budget to pay for maintenance and improvements at the six Test venues, will discuss an ECB offer covering international matches in England until 2002.

Staging agreements for the four Tests against New Zealand remain unsigned little more than two months before the start of the series. It has been suggested that matches might be switched to venues such as Chester-le-Street and Cardiff.

However, one member of the TMGC said yesterday: "Generally, both sides are moving in the right direction and the talks are positive. We are prepared to concede quite a lot of ground for this year for the good of the game on the understanding that it is part of a four-year package."

England will have to wait until next season if they want Bob Woolmer to succeed David Lloyd as the team coach. Woolmer, whose contract with South Africa expires after the World Cup in June, has agreed to work as a commentator for Talk Radio during England's winter tour of South Africa.

He was reluctant, anyway, to use his inside knowledge against what will be his former employers so soon after leaving the post.

Hooper takes his leave

CARL HOOPER, 32, the West Indies batsman and off spinner, has retired from international cricket less than three weeks before the World Cup is due to begin in England. Hooper, who missed the start of the recent Test series by remaining in Australia, where his son was seriously ill, has yet to give his reasons for retirement to the West Indies Cricket Board.

This is another blow to West Indies in their preparations for the World Cup, for it follows the uncertainty over whether Brian Lara, the captain, will be fit to take part because of a persistent and painful wrist injury.

"Carl will be very difficult to replace," Clive Lloyd, the West Indies manager, said, "but his absence will give somebody else a chance to show their talents. It is unfortunate because he has been an excellent player."

Before the news was announced, West Indies went 3-2 down in the one-day series against Australia on Saturday when they were beaten by four wickets in Bridgetown, Barbados. Shane Warne took three for 28 in his ten overs overs as the West Indies wasted a excellent start — Sherwin Campbell and Ridley Jacobs scored 81 from the first 11 overs — by allowing themselves to be restricted to 249 for five.

A robust innings from Adam Gilchrist, who made 64, got Australia off to a bright start and although the sixth wicket fell with the score at 206, Michael Bevan, with an unbeaten 35, got Australia home with nine balls to spare.

YESTERDAY'S CGU NATIONAL LEAGUE SCOREBOARDS

First division

Essex v Lancashire

CHELMSFORD (Essex won toss). Lancashire (4pts) beat Essex by three runs

LANCASHIRE

P C McKeown c Such b Cowan	12
M Chilton c Peters b Law	25
*J P Crawley b Grayson	84
N H Fairbrother c and b Such	0
A Flintoff st Rollins b Law	143
G D Lloyd not out	22
†W K Hegg b Ilott	2
Extras (b 1, lb 5, w 5, nb 2)	13
Total (6 wkts, 45 overs)	**301**

I D Austin, G Yates, G Chapple and P J Martin did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-66, 3-68, 4-247, 5-294, 6-301.

BOWLING: Ilott 9-0-47-1, Cowan 9-1-49-1, Irani 7-0-49-0, Law 9-0-56-2, Such 3-0-20-1, Grayson 8-0-74-1

ESSEX

P J Prichard c Hegg b Flintoff	45
S G Law c Flintoff b Chilton	55
*N Hussain c Crawley b Chilton	26
†R J Rollins c Martin b Chapple	87
R C Irani c Flintoff b Chilton	3
S D Peters c Martin b Flintoff	19
A P Grayson b Flintoff	14
T C Walton run out	10
A P Cowan run out	10
M C Ilott run out	12
P M Such not out	0
Extras (lb 7, w 8, nb 2)	17
Total (45 overs)	**298**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-70, 2-121, 3-137, 4-142, 5-206, 6-235, 7-269, 8-270, 9-298

BOWLING: Austin 9-0-48-0, Martin 9-0-54-0, Chapple 9-0-65-1, Flintoff 9-0-60-3, Chilton 5-0-41-3, Yates 4-0-23-0

Umpires: B Dudleston and N T Plews

Hampshire v Kent

SOUTHAMPTON (Hampshire won toss): Hampshire (4pts) beat Kent by 21 runs (D/L method)

KENT

T R Ward c Stephenson b Morris	17
R W T Key run out	48
M J Walker c Smith b Mascarenhas	13
A Symonds lbw b Mascarenhas	2
A P Wells run out	18
M A Ealham c Mascarenhas b Morris	36
†S A Marsh b Morris	0
*M V Fleming c Kenway b Renshaw	36
D W Headley not out	14
Extras (lb 8, w 16)	24
Total (8 wkts, 45 overs)	**208**

J B Thompson and D A Scott did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22, 2-41, 3-44, 4-79, 5-143, 6-146, 7-174, 8-208

BOWLING: Morris 9-0-59-3, McLean 9-2-26-0, Mascarenhas 9-0-39-2, Renshaw 8-1-36-1, Stephenson 6-0-17-0, Udal 4-0-23-0

HAMPSHIRE

G W White lbw b Thompson	25
J P Stephenson not out	71
*R A Smith not out	26
Extras (lb 1, w 5, nb 2)	8
Total (1 wkt, 28 overs)	**130**

†A N Aymes, W S Kendall, D A Kenway, A D Mascarenhas, S D Udal, A C Morris, N A M McLean and S J Renshaw did not bat.

FALL OF WICKET: 1-77

BOWLING: Headley 8-0-35-0, Thompson 6-0-36-1, Ealham 6-0-24-0, Symonds 6-0-27-0, Fleming 2-0-7-0

Umpires: J W Lloyds and P Willey

Warwickshire v Worcestershire

EDGBASTON (Worcestershire won toss): Worcestershire (4pts) beat Warwickshire by 117 runs (D/L method)

WORCESTERSHIRE

P R Pollard c Knight b Small	70
W P C Weston c Brown b Munton	125
G A Hick c Frost b Welch	26
V S Solanki c Knight b Munton	32
G R Haynes not out	10
D A Leatherdale not out	7
Extras (b 1, lb 7, w 9)	17
Total (4 wkts, 45 overs)	**287**

*†S J Rhodes, S R Lampitt, R K Illingworth, M J Rawnsley and A Sheriyar did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-149, 2-201, 3-250, 4-276.

BOWLING: Giddins 8-1-36-0, Munton 9-0-44-2, Small 6-0-49-1, Smith 5-0-27-0, Welch 8-0-77-1, Giles 9-0-46-0

WARWICKSHIRE

N V Knight c Pollard b Sheriyar	22
*N M K Smith c Rawnsley b Haynes	0
D L Hemp c Hick b Leatherdale	26
T L Penney c Solanki b Haynes	10
D R Brown c Illingworth b Leatherdale	13
G Welch b Leatherdale	5
A F Giles c and b Leatherdale	11
†T Frost b Illingworth	9
G C Small c Haynes b Illingworth	5
T A Munton not out	6
E S H Giddins lbw b Lampitt	1
Extras (lb 3, w 2)	5
Total (21.4 overs)	**113**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-19, 2-23, 3-48, 4-66, 5-80, 6-80, 7-93, 8-104, 9-111

BOWLING: Sheriyar 6-0-35-1, Haynes 6-1-25-2, Lampitt 3.4-0-21-1, Leatherdale 4-0-23-4, Illingworth 2-0-6-2

Umpires: M J Harris and A A Jones

Yorkshire v Gloucestershire

HEADINGLEY (Yorkshire won toss): Yorkshire (4pts) beat Gloucestershire by two wickets

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

K J Barnett c White b Silverwood	11
R I Dawson b Sidebottom	39
M G N Windows b White	36
*M W Alleyne c Blakey b Hamilton	1
J N Snape lbw b White	19
†R C Russell b White	22
T H C Hancock lbw b Sidebottom	0
M C J Ball c Blakey b Sidebottom	1
J Lewis b White	6
J M M Averis run out	0
A M Smith not out	0
Extras (lb 5, w 5)	10
Total (36 overs)	**145**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-28, 2-61, 3-62, 4-93, 5-134, 6-135, 7-138, 8-144, 9-144

BOWLING: Gough 6-1-18-0, Silverwood 9-1-36-1, Sidebottom 7-2-14-3, Hamilton 7-1-47-1, White 7-1-25-4

YORKSHIRE

G S Blewett b Smith	4
*D Byas b Lewis	21
C White lbw b Averis	49
M P Vaughan c Russell b Averis	27
A McGrath c Ball b Alleyne	0
G M Hamilton b Averis	0
†R J Blakey c Russell b Lewis	8
G M Fellows not out	17
D Gough c Alleyne b Hancock	15
C E W Silverwood not out	1
Extras (w 5)	5
Total (8 wkts, 43.2 overs)	**147**

R J Sidebottom did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-45, 3-83, 4-84, 5-87, 6-114, 7-114, 8-140

BOWLING: Smith 9-0-46-1, Lewis 9-0-42-2, Averis 9-2-17-3, Alleyne 9-3-14-1, Barnett 4-0-19-0, Hancock 3.2-1-9-1.

Umpires: J H Hampshire and J W Holder

Second division

Middlesex v Glamorgan

LORD'S (Glamorgan won toss): Glamorgan (4pts) beat Middlesex by 35 runs

GLAMORGAN

A W Evans c Nash b Cook	15
*M P Maynard c Dutch b Cook	18
A Dale c Hewitt b Cook	57
S P James c Nash b Batt	15
K Newell b Batt	6
R D B Croft b Weekes	53
†A D Shaw c Ramprakash b Weekes	10
S D Thomas b Fraser	8
D A Cosker lbw b Weekes	2
S L Watkin not out	0
O T Parkin b Fraser	2
Extras (lb 9, w 11, nb 2)	22
Total (44.5 overs)	**208**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-27, 2-40, 3-69, 4-82, 5-162, 6-192, 7-204, 8-206, 9-206

BOWLING: Fraser 8.5-1-37-2, Cook 9-0-40-3, Hewitt 6-0-34-0, Batt 9-0-33-2, Weekes 9-0-38-3, Dutch 3-0-17-0.

MIDDLESEX

P N Weekes c Newell b Watkin	11
M A Roseberry c and b Watkin	8
J L Langer lbw b Parkin	1
*M R Ramprakash run out	20
O A Shah st Shaw b Cosker	23
†D C Nash run out	15
K P Dutch c Newell b Croft	29
J P Hewitt c Maynard b Watkin	13
A R C Fraser c Watkin b Parkin	16
S J Cook not out	11
C J Batt not out	8
Extras (lb 7, w 11)	18
Total (9 wkts, 45 overs)	**173**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-23, 3-27, 4-70, 5-80, 6-94, 7-127, 8-137, 9-162

BOWLING: Parkin 9-1-28-2, Watkin 9-1-30-3, Thomas 8-0-37-0, Dale 5-0-12-0, Croft 8-0-29-1, Cosker 6-0-30-1

Umpires: R A White and A G T Whitehead

Surrey v Northamptonshire

THE OVAL (Surrey won toss). Northamptonshire (4pts) beat Surrey by four wickets

SURREY

A D Brown c Ripley b Taylor	25
†A J Stewart b Penberthy	27
B C Hollioake c Warren b Penberthy	25
G P Thorpe c Warren b Malcolm	44
*M A Butcher c Hayden b Swann	19
A J Hollioake c Ripley b Innes	12
I J Ward not out	18
A J Tudor b Penberthy	5
I D K Salisbury b Penberthy	12
M P Bicknell c Sales b Taylor	4
Extras (b 4, lb 4, w 8)	16
Total (9 wkts, 45 overs)	**207**

J E Benjamin did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-37, 2-81, 3-94, 4-127, 5-158, 6-169, 7-184, 8-198, 9-207.

BOWLING: Taylor 8-0-39-2, Malcolm 9-0-37-1, Penberthy 9-0-48-4, Curran 9-2-21-0, Innes 5-0-32-1, Swann 5-0-22-1

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

M B Loye c Thorpe b B C Hollioake	55
*M L Hayden c Stewart b Tudor	2
R J Warren c Stewart b A J Hollioake	29
D J G Sales c Thorpe b Salisbury	14
A L Penberthy not out	47
K M Curran lbw b Bicknell	3
K J Innes c B C Hollioake b Benjamin	13
G P Swann not out	30
Extras (lb 8, w 8, nb 2)	18
Total (6 wkts, 43.2 overs)	**211**

†D Ripley, J P Taylor and D E Malcolm did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-91, 3-95, 4-120, 5-126, 6-151

BOWLING: Bicknell 9-1-42-1, Tudor 6.2-0-30-1, Benjamin 6-0-32-1, B C Hollioake 9-0-34-1, Salisbury 6-0-25-1, A J Hollioake 7-1-40-1

Umpires: G I Burgess and R Palmer

Sussex v Derbyshire

HOVE (Derbyshire won toss). Sussex (4pts) beat Derbyshire by 11 runs (D/L method)

DERBYSHIRE

A S Rollins b Rashid	29
M J Slater c Adams b Kirtley	1
M E Cassar c Edwards b Kirtley	0
P A J DeFreitas st Humphries b Rashid	25
R M S Weston b Rashid	3
S P Titchard c Montgomerie b Kirtley	37
*D G Cork not out	61
†K M Krikken run out	3
G M Roberts not out	2
Extras (b 1, lb 8, w 3, nb 8)	20
Total (7 wkts, 45 overs)	**181**

P Aldred and K J Dean did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-2, 3-56, 4-61, 5-82, 6-155, 7-165

BOWLING: Martin-Jenkins 8-1-32-0, Kirtley 9-1-35-3, Edwards 8-0-32-0, Robinson 9-0-27-0, Rashid 9-3-13-3, Adams 4-0-33-0

SUSSEX

R R Montgomerie not out	61
M J Di Venuto lbw b DeFreitas	0
*C J Adams b Cork	57
R S C Martin-Jenkins b Cork	2
P A Cottey not out	6
Extras (lb 2, w 7, nb 2)	11
Total (3 wkts, 36 overs)	**137**

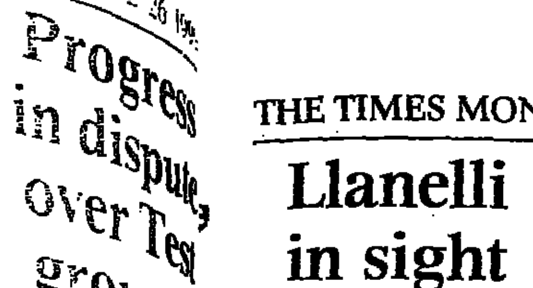
R K Rao, U B A Rashid, A D Edwards, †S Humphries, R J Kirtley and M A Robinson did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-123, 3-126

BOWLING: DeFreitas 9-3-19-1, Dean 7-2-25-0, Aldred 8-0-39-0, Cork 7-0-33-2, Roberts 3-0-11-0, Cassar 2-0-8-0

Umpires: M J Kitchen and G Sharp

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Llanelli in sight of the double

Ebbw Vale	3
Llanelli	42

By Gerald Davies

LLANELLI have moved nine points clear at the top of the Welsh League after a comfortable win against a strangely subdued Ebbw Vale on Saturday. Despite a midweek loss away to Neath and the unpredictability of bonus points in the offing, the West Wales club now looks set to win the championship.

The competition has entered the play-off stage, with each of the four clubs involved having played two of their six matches already. Llanelli play in Pontypridd on Wednesday against the club who, without the influence of Neil Jenkins at fly half, are limping along in desultory fashion after losing their two play-off matches to date.

As has become a familiar theme throughout the years, Llanelli are also challenging for the SWALEC Cup. Ideally, they would like to have secured the league title before reaching the two remaining matches, so that some of their leading players can rest before the final against Swansea in the cup final.

Llanelli are at ease in knowing that they, along with Pontypridd, will be participating in the European Cup next season. This is not the case for Ebbw Vale, who will be competing with Neath in making up the complement of five Welsh clubs in the tournament.

There is not a little acrimony among these two clubs in that both Cardiff and Swansea are likely to be included despite their brief rebellion outside the Welsh league system this season. In the meantime, Cardiff have named Lyn Howells, assistant coach to Pontypridd, as their new coach after the resignation of Terry Holmes on Friday. Howells acted as assistant coach to Graham Henry with the national team this year.

Ebbw Vale, who can be expected normally to be rampant on their own ground, were not themselves on Saturday. Apart from a hectic period before half-time, they were hardly in the contest. If they felt that matters might improve after the interval, they were to be disappointed, with Llanelli scoring a try that originated deep in their territory, within a minute of the restart.

SCORERS: Ebbw Vale: Penalty goal: Strange (50min). **Llanelli: Tries:** Hayward (14), Hodges (41), Finau 2 (61, 69), Jenkins (73). **Conversions:** Hayward 4. **Penalty goals:** Hayward 2 (4, 45). **Dropped goal:** Hayward (38).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Ebbw Vale first): 0-3, 0-10, 0-13 (half-time), 0-20, 0-23, 3-23, 3-30, 3-37, 3-42.
EBBW VALE: S Taumalolo, D Manley (rep: G Williams, 72min), J Hawker, J Funnell, J Williams, J Strange (rep: C Arnold, 62), D Llewellyn (rep: B Jones, 62), I Thomas, L Phillips (rep: A Peacock, 62), A Metcalfe (rep: A Phillips, 62), C Billen, K Faletau, N Budgett (rep: M Spiller, 41), G Green, M Jones (rep: L Banks, 54).
LLANELLI: C Warlow, W Proctor, S Finau, G John (rep: D Williams, 75), G Evans, B Hayward, R Moon (rep: A Thomas, 77), P Booth, R McBryde (rep: M Thomas, 69), J Davies, A Copsey (rep: C Wyatt, 56), M Voyle (rep: V Cooper, 69), D Hodges, I Boobyer (rep: A Chili, 69), H Jenkins.
Referee: N Whitehouse (Swansea).

Richards content to delay the celebrations

Sale	17
Leicester	41

By David Hands

TO EVERY cloud, there is a silver lining. As more than 4,000 people drifted away from Heywood Road on Saturday, they were cheered by the broadcast announcement that Sale's place in the first division next season was assured after defeats elsewhere for Bedford and West Hartlepool. After the week they have had, of cost-cutting and high-profile transfer-listing — with more to follow — they need to take encouragement wherever they can.

Leicester had left them with none, but the champagne for the Allied Dunbar Premiership title remains firmly in the refrigerator. Not until the pocket calculator tells Dean Richards that the team he manages cannot be caught will he permit any hint of celebration, even though the points difference between Leicester and Northampton, in second place, is such that they can virtually dispense with the draw that is all they require from their remaining two matches, with Newcastle Falcons and West Hartlepool.

Yet already Richards is looking ahead to a potentially-chaotic World Cup season in which English clubs are scheduled to play Premiership matches up to and during the international circus. He expects to lose around a dozen players to various World Cup squads — Northampton, Bath and Saracens will be afflicted, though not to the same extent — and worries that not only domestic honours but European qualification may have been lost by Christmas.

"Someone has to look very seriously at the start of next season," Richards said, with a board meeting of English First-Division Rugby scheduled for tomorrow. Rob Andrew, his opposite number at Newcastle, is of much the same mind. Acknowledging the duty owed to the sponsors, Richards would prefer a limited Premiership competition based on a conference system similar to that already suggested by Saracens, with a separate tournament being played while the World Cup bandwagon is in full swing.

"It's almost as though you are being penalised for breeding good players," Richards, who does not anticipate much change to his squad between now and next season, said.

Adrian Hadley, the Sale director of rugby, has helped to breed good players and is now having to dispose of them to make the books balance: Barrie-Jon Mather, the England centre, will be joined on the transfer list by three or four more players within the next ten days, some of whom did not make a powerful case for retention by, as it were, their lack of retention of the ball.

"We are doing what every club in the first division has to do," Hadley said. "The investors are not prepared to lose the amount of money we have lost in the last two years. We will keep the core of our squad, maybe add one or two, but we will be competitive next season." That core should include Shane Howarth, full back for Wales but fly half for his club, and Sale are optimistic that they can keep him from the clutches of Cardiff.

Stimpson, of Leicester, holds off Yates, left, and Smith

Sale have leaked tries all season, but at their best their passing is a joy and Jim Mallinder's vision creates tries such as that scored by Jos Baxendell which gave Sale so brief a lead.

Leicester created pressure on the Sale defence by running the ball at every opportunity, forwards and backs shaping a seamless game whose best expression came with David Lougheed's try in the first half. Typically, its genesis came when Sale failed to control their own lineout and Van Heerden ploughed through to take possession.

The South African lock has played strongly in the second half of the season, with thoughts of a possible place in his country's World Cup squad on his mind, and he created the impulse from which Leicester found Martin Johnson and Neil Back running in support. Lougheed received the final pass and brushed aside the last clutching hands.

Leicester's enthusiasm helped Back to two tries and a tally of 13 for the season, only for the England flanker to find that Pat Lam's brace for Northampton prevented him becoming the division's leading try-scorer; that may be the only area in which Northampton pip Leicester this season.

SCORERS: Sale: Tries: Baxendell (5min), Howarth (38), Mather (71). **Conversion:** Howarth. **Leicester: Tries:** Healey (17), Lougheed (23), Corry (32), Back 2 (50, 70). **Conversions:** Stimpson 2. **Penalty goals:** Stimpson 4 (4, 7, 44, 75).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Sale first): 0-3, 5-3, 5-6, 5-13, 5-18, 5-23, 12-23 (half-time), 12-26, 12-33, 12-38, 17-38, 17-41.
SALE: J Mallinder, M Moore, J Baxendell, C Yates, B-J Mather, S Howarth, R Smith, D Bell, P Greening, D Theron, S Raiwalui (rep: D Baldwin, 61min), C Murphy, P Anglesea, A Sanderson, D O'Cuinneagain (rep: P Sanderson, 61).
LEICESTER: T Stimpson, L Lloyd, C Joiner (rep: G Murphy, 75), J Stuart, D Lougheed, P Howard, A Healey (rep: J Hamilton, 71), G Rowntree (rep: D Jelley, 64), R Cockerill (rep: D West, 64), D Garforth (rep: Rowntree, 70), M Johnson, F van Heerden (rep: W Johnson, 45-49), L Moody (rep: P Gustard, 64), N Back, M Corry (rep: W Johnson, 70).
Referee: B Campsall (Yorkshire).

Falcons prey on ailing rivals

Newcastle Falcons	39
Gloucester	15

By Alasdair Reid

THE cruellest irony of Gloucester's dismal away record is that they so regularly threaten to bring it to an end. They started this Allied Dunbar Premiership match yesterday in typically promising fashion, manufacturing a delightful try for Mike Davies, the centre making his debut, after only three minutes. Thereafter, however, they were simply blown away.

Newcastle were nowhere near their best in their second game in five days, but they exercised an admirable degree of control. Indeed, Davies's try may have been a useful wake-up call, as Newcastle can often be desperately slow in getting into their stride.

The early jolt was a clear influence as they added thoroughness to their overall performance. Gradually they squeezed Gloucester out of the match, overtook them on the scoreboard after half an hour and, frankly, never looked remotely threatened.

Gloucester, after six consecutive league defeats, urgently need to strengthen their squad, a process that begins today when they unveil Junior Paramore, the Bedford flanker, as their newest recruit.

Newcastle, as ever, were given marvellous direction by Gary Armstrong, their captain. As Steve Bates, the Newcastle coach, said, Armstrong, the Scotland scrum half, has been exemplary for Newcastle this season.

Armstrong produced a brace of tries early in the second half. Newcastle had reached the interval 18-7 ahead, through touchdowns by Mike Wood and Stuart Legg and a conversion and a penalty by Jonny Wilkinson, with Simon Mannix adding a penalty to Davies's early try. A penalty by Mark Mapletoft, who had replaced Mannix, shortly after half-time suggested that Gloucester could stage a revival until Armstrong intervened.

Tom Beim scored a late try for Gloucester but by that stage, with six minutes remaining, Newcastle had already lifted their foot off the gas. Gloucester's impudence rattled them back into action and George Graham completed their scoring with a last-minute try.

SCORERS: Newcastle Falcons: Tries: Wood (29min), Legg (40), Armstrong 2 (50, 55), Graham (80). **Conversions:** Wilkinson 4. **Penalty goals:** Wilkinson 2 (19, 24). **Gloucester: Tries:** Davies (3), Beim (74). **Conversion:** Mannix. **Penalty goal:** Mapletoft.
SCORING SEQUENCE (Newcastle Falcons first): 0-7, 3-7, 6-7, 11-7, 18-7 (half-time), 18-10, 25-10, 32-10, 32-15, 39-15.
NEWCASTLE FALCONS: S Legg, J Naylor, M Shaw, T May, M Wood, J Wilkinson, G Armstrong, G Graham, R Nesdale (rep: R Horton, 61), M Hurter, G Archer, G Weir (rep: H Vyvyan, 72), S O'Neill (rep: P Walton, 40), R Arnold, R Beattie.
GLOUCESTER: C Catling, T Beim, R Tombs, M Davies, R Jewell, S Mannix (rep: M Mapletoft, 30), I Sanders, A Windo, C Fortey, P Vickery, R Ward (rep: A Eustace, 69), D Sims, S Ojomoh, N Carter (rep: A Hazell, 64), E Pearce.
Referee: S Lander (Liverpool).

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: BROOKE AND PIENAAR INJURED AS HARLEQUINS TRIUMPH AT WATFORD



Murphy, of Harlequins, manages to apply downward pressure to score at Vicarage Road yesterday despite being tackled by Hill, the Saracens flanker. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Saracens lose place among big six

Saracens	30
Harlequins	38

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

THE cost of qualification for Europe is becoming more and more profound: the cost of not qualifying for Europe is even higher and that is the spectre that now stares Saracens, the big spenders of the Allied Dunbar Premiership, in the face. Defeat at Vicarage Road yesterday pushed them out of the top six for the first time in 18 months.

The main concern for Harlequins was the sight of Zinzan Brooke, their player-coach, leaving the stadium immobilised on a stretcher after sustaining compressed vertebrae at the base of the neck in loose play. However, the New Zealander had movement in all his limbs and John Gallagher, the club's director of rugby, described his visit to Watford General Hospital as precautionary. He is expected to make a full recovery.

Gallagher can take immense satisfaction from the double that his players have achieved over Saracens. In October, they threw the Watford club off balance so badly that their season has not really recovered. Yesterday, they threw a spanner in the European works while doing their own prospects no harm at all.

"That was a massive defeat for us," Francois Pienaar, the Saracens coach and captain, said. He will not play again himself this season. After suffering a partially torn medial ligament a week earlier against Leicester, he completed the job when twisting in a tackle yesterday.

In the ten minutes before half-time Saracens conceded 15 points, but the result was still in the balance until they waved Chris Sheasby through from a scrum in the second minute of injury time at the end of a second half extended by seven minutes while Brooke was carefully removed from the pitch.

Early lack of control suggested that Saracens were short of confidence, yet they scored a try of considerable quality that should have served to settle them. Johnson ran strongly out of defence and sent Sorrell sprinting clear. Although Carling caught him, Grau and Diprose breathed life into the movement and Daniel crossed at the corner.

That proved merely to be the signal for Harlequins to swamp their opponents. Carling's weighted pass gave Luger — who is expected to move to Saracens next season — a run to the posts and, when Constable and Penaud made a hash of attacking out of their own 22, Mensah accepted the gift and sent O'Leary over. Sheasby and Jenkins were the next to make ground and Murphy plunged over from the ruck to give his team a 15-point advantage.

Harlequins then displayed generosity of their own. Johnson kicked a penalty after Carling's high tackle on Sorrell and neither Carling nor O'Leary (twice) could stop the flying Daniel high-stepping his way to a second try. After a rash of replacements, Lacroix, one of them, immediately kicked two penalty goals to carry his side two scores clear.

When Sheasby was permitted to pick up from a scrum and sprint 25 metres for the fourth Harlequins try, Saracens could tell that it would not be their day. Even though O'Leary, well offside, conceded a penalty try, Harlequins had enough in hand.

SCORERS: Saracens: Tries: Daniel 2 (28min, 48), penalty try. **Conversions:** Johnson 3. **Penalty goals:** Johnson 3 (24, 46, 53). **Harlequins: Tries:** Luger (30), O'Leary (36), Murphy (40), Sheasby (82). **Conversions:** Liley 2, Lacroix. **Penalty goals:** Liley 2 (4, 10), Lacroix 2 (64, 77).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Saracens first): 0-3, 0-6, 3-6, 10-6, 10-13, 10-20, 10-25 (half-time), 13-25, 20-25, 23-25, 23-28, 23-31, 23-38, 30-38.
SARACENS: G Johnson (rep: S Ravenscroft, 87min); R Thirlby (rep: J Thomson, 71), R Constable, K Sorrell, B Daniel; A Penaud, M Olsen; R Grau, G Chuter, B Reidy, P Johns, K Chesney, R Hill, F Pienaar (rep: B Cole, 22), A Diprose.
HARLEQUINS: J Williams, D O'Leary (rep: J Keyter, 67), W Carling, P Mensah, D Luger, R Liley (rep: T Lacroix, 52), N Walshe (rep: C Wright, 62); J Leonard, T Murphy (rep: C Ridgway, 66), R Nebbett (rep: G Halpin, 57), G Llewellyn, G Morgan, Z Brooke (rep: W Davison, 73), R Jenkins (rep: A Leach, 60), C Sheasby.
Referee: E Morrison (Bristol).

Youngsters offer Bath hope for bright future

Bath	56
West Hartlepool	24

By Nicolas Andrews

THERE will be no silverware for Bath this season, but third or fourth place in the league and European competition next year is now theirs for the taking. Considering the dark days of early January, with seven defeats in eight games, Andrew Brownsword, their owner and chief executive, and Andy Robinson, their head coach, will surely settle for that.

A few years ago, of course, such an unremarkable state of affairs would have been unthinkable, and this Bath side has a long way to go before it can live with its predecessors, but there is, nevertheless, more than a hint that the trophy cabinet at The Recreation Ground might need unlocking again before too long.

Young players such as Perry, Balshaw, Tindall, Cooper and Borthwick are the key to the club's future. They are learning fast and getting plenty of experience. Balshaw, who turned 20 just twelve days ago, has played more first-team games than anyone at Bath this season.

Guscott, De Glanville and Adedayo Adebayo were all missing from the threequarter line on Saturday, but the young Bath backs, marshalled superbly by Catt and Maggs, were still in sparkling form. Two tries for Balshaw and Perry, plus others for Maggs, Tindall and Cooper and a front-row offering from Regan, eventually carried them clear of a stretched but spirited West Hartlepool side.

Getting 22 fit men into their rugby boots is a tall enough order for West Hartlepool at the moment. Mark Giacheri, the Italy lock, who was injured playing against Ireland, did not recover in time to rejoin the second row, so James Ponton, a flanker, played out of position.

It was a gallant effort by the whole West Hartlepool side, many of whom were appearing for the third time in a week. If they can maintain such commitment in remaining games against their fellow strugglers, Bedford and London Scottish, relegation need not yet be a formality.

SCORERS: Bath: Tries: Balshaw 2 (8min, 19), Perry 2 (62, 64), Maggs (15), Tindall (33), Regan (56), Cooper (80). **Conversions:** Catt 6. **Penalty goals:** Catt 2 (32, 41). **West Hartlepool: Tries:** Greaves (36), Farrell (43). **Conversion:** [illegible]. **Penalty goals:** [illegible] 4 (5, 11, 22, 30).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Bath first): 0-3, 7-3, [illegible], 14-6, 21-6, 21-9, 21-12, 24-12, 29-12, [illegible]-17 (half-time), 32-17, 32-24, 37-24, [illegible]-24, 49-24, 56-24.
BATH: [illegible] Perry, I Balshaw, K Maggs, M Tindall, T A[illegible], M Catt, G Cooper, D Hilton, M Regan, [illegible] (rep: R Yates, 48min), M Haag, [illegible], N Thomas, R Webster (rep: [illegible], 62), D Lyle (rep: B Sturnham, 7[illegible]).
WEST HARTLEPOOL: E Farrell, T Handley, [illegible], P Greaves (rep: G McLure, 65), S [illegible], S Vile, T Nu'ualiitia (rep: R [illegible]), S Scarks, S McDonald (rep: S Whitehead, 62), [illegible] (rep: P Beal, 75), P Farrell, [illegible], D Hyde (rep: S Cassidy, 41), D [illegible], M Brewer.
Referee: C Rees (London).

Army's advance led by experienced pack

THE Army beat the Navy for a third consecutive year to retain the Inter-Services Trophy in a frantic encounter in front of a crowd of 26,000 at Twickenham. Both sides had emphatically beaten the RAF, but the Army came into the game as clear favourites and so it proved in a 24-13 victory.

With Northampton's international players, Tim Rodber and Matt Stewart, and two New Zealanders, Christopher Budgen and Dwayne Cadwalladar, who was named man of the match, the Army pack would have graced the Allied Dunbar Premiership.

They surged into an early 14-3 lead on Saturday, with tries from Brian Johnston and Rory Greenslade-Jones, and never looked back.

A try by Howard Graham, the fly half, a minute after the restart should have sealed the game for the Army but a penalty and a try by Paul Livingstone, the Navy's sniping scrum half, who scored all their points, kept it alive until the end.

☐ Gala won the Tennent's Velvet Cup by beating Kelso 8-3, after trailing 3-0 with five minutes left. After Gala had won a lineout in a rare attack, Chris Paterson, the fly half, scored the winning try.

Bedford facing final orders

Bedford	31
Northampton	42

By Mark Baldwin

ONE of the men responsible for buying control of Bedford said after this latest defeat that he wants "to see more people here drinking at Goldington Road".

You might think that many Bedford supporters would have been seeking solace in the bottle long since after this season's trials and tribulations, but the point that Doug Braddock was seeking to stress is that the future of the club — irrespective of whether they remain in the Allied Dunbar Premiership or not — depends on developing their ground into a leisure facility, centred on rugby but used by the whole community.

Braddock, a director of corporate consultants Jefferson Lloyd International, which bought out former owner Frank Warren's 90 per cent shareholding for reputedly more than £1 million last Friday, said: "We believe it is the right time for us to get into rugby. Too many people have been treating rugby as a business. It's not, it's a game."

Bedford, well beaten after competing hard for an hour, still have enviable spirit, which reflects hugely on the players and the integrity and grit of Rudi Straeuli, their steadfast director of rugby. The club must now gear itself for the biggest week in its history, the visit to West Hartlepool, the bottom club, on Sunday, when automatic relegation will be averted if Bedford win.

Braddock said that money would be made available for players but "mainly for the development of this site". He added: "We are looking to invest considerably in the club and we are not throwing money down the drain."

Pat Lam scored two fine tries to snuff out the Bedford challenge on Saturday, which still burned brightly at 24-28. Grant Seely also scored in the first half, when Northampton briefly raised the pace, and a penalty try was awarded for a high tackle on Craig Moir. Alistair Hepher also outkicked a woeful Tony Yapp.

But Bedford also ran in five tries and it was appropriate that they should finish the match in some style when a length-of-the-field breakout produced a try for Joe Ewens. "We deserve to stay in this division," Straeuli growled.

SCORERS: Bedford: Tries: Forster (11min), O'Mahony (20), Oliver (34), Murdoch (51), Ewens (80). **Conversions:** Yapp 2, Stewart. **Northampton: Tries:** Penalty try (27), Cohen (31), Seely (37), Lam 2 (63, 71). **Conversions:** A Hepher 4. **Penalty goals:** A Hepher 3 (4, 7, 19).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Bedford first): 0-3, 0-6, 5-6, 5-9, 10-9, 10-16, 10-23, 17-23, 17-28 (half-time), 24-28, 24-35, 24-42, 31-42.
BEDFORD: S Stewart (rep: R Underwood, 72min), B Whetstone, A Murdoch, D Harris, D O'Mahony (rep: J Ewens, 64); A Yapp, R Elliott (rep: C Harrison, 75), A Oliver (rep: V Hartland, 77), J Richards (rep: A Davis, 77), C Boyd, D Zaltzman, A Codling (rep: A Duke, 19; rep: P Hewitt, 67), J Cockle (sin bin 18-28), J Forster, R Winters.
NORTHAMPTON: N Beal (rep: A Blyth, 60), C Moir, A Northey, M Allen, B Cohen, A Hepher, M Dawson, G Pagel, F Méndez, M Hynes (rep: M Volland, 75), J Phillips, A Newman (rep: S Hepher, 65), P Lam, A Pountney, G Seely.
Referee: A Rowden (Berkshire).

RACING

Eddery gets summons from Butler

By Chris McGrath

COMPTON ADMIRAL, whose turn of foot in the Craven Stakes augured so well for his prospects in the Sagitta 2,000 Guineas, will have youth and experience serving his cause when he returns to Newmarket on Saturday. Yesterday, Gerard Butler, his trainer, booked Pat Eddery to replace Frankie Dettori in the classic, in which the Italian is required by Godolphin.

Butler, 33 today, is in only his second season with a licence, whereas Eddery has just celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of the first of more than 4,000 career wins. The 11-times champion jockey, however, is still able to match the ambition of the younger man, who is seeking to give the rider of Zafonic, El Gran Senor and Lomond another Guineas success.

Though Dettori rode Compton Admiral in the Craven, Eddery was in the saddle when he showed so little respect for the reputation Killer Instinct brought to Ascot last summer. "That was the main reason we went for Pat, he has ridden the horse before," Butler said after discussing various options with Erik Penser.

Compton Admiral's Swedish owner also won the Craven three years ago with Beauchamp King, who went on to give Butler his first success, in a listed race at Haydock last season.

Dettori is to ride Island Sands, who came out best among the colts in Godolphin's three-year-old trials 16 days ago. He is among 30 horses flying in from Dubai this morning, in the wake of a preliminary draft of ten yesterday. Today's priceless cargo includes those who will be entrusted with opening Godolphin's European season at the Guineas meeting. First to put his head over the parapet is likely to be Mukhalif. He won both his starts as a juvenile when with David Loder, and confirmed how he has flourished in the desert by chasing home Island Sands in the colts' trial.

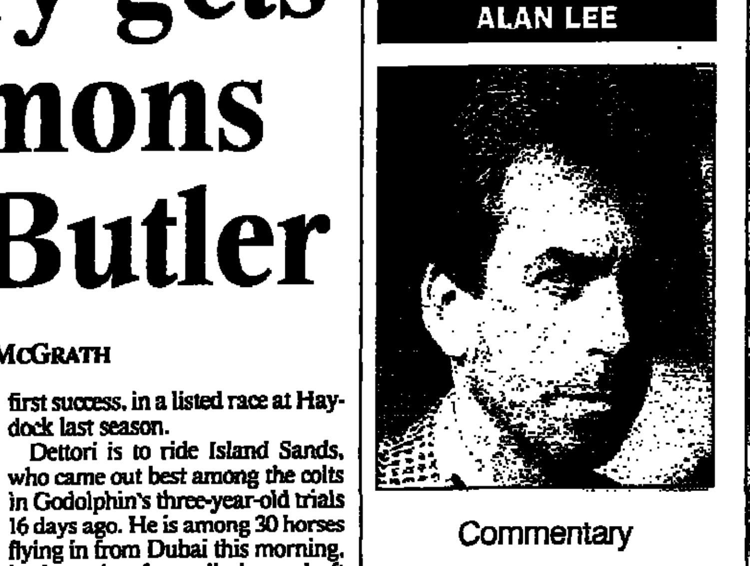
That was over a mile but he is bred to stay well and, being of the neat build that suits Epsom well, Mukhalif could be an auspicious first runner for Godolphin in the Green Ridge Newmarket Stakes on Friday's card. All running plans, however, are subject to how well each horse has travelled and adjusted to the chilly English spring.

The vacancy on the French-trained 1,000 Guineas favourite, Moiava — a headache caused by Olivier Doleuze's suspension and exacerbated by Kieren Fallon's commitment to Wince — has been filled by Richard Quinn. The jockey confirmed himself in marvellous form at Sandown Park on Saturday, persuading Generous Rosi to suspend his addiction to second in a desperate finish to the Gordon Richard Stakes. On the same card, Glamis did not remotely resemble a Derby colt in the Thresher Classic Trial, albeit on unsuitably soft ground.

Montjeu, however, owned by Michael Tabor and trained by John Hammond, is 10-1 with Ladbrokes for the Derby after winning the group two Prix Greffulhe at Longchamp yesterday.

Paul Carberry was yesterday described as "stable" after undergoing emergency surgery on his spleen. He is expected to make a full recovery but could be out of action for two months or more. Carberry missed the ride on Bobbyjo in the Whitbread Gold Cup after being injured when riding out for Noel Meade.

Refreshed by Whitbread brew



ALAN LEE

Commentary

Racing arouses more than its share of contempt and condemnation, usually for the soundest of reasons. Haphazard planning, bookmakers' greed and administrative elitism can make the most faithful follower weep. Just occasionally, though, the sport presents a day of atonement, a day so spectacular it dispels all fears that this precarious industry, fundamentally decent but dated and slightly dotty, may perish among the piranhas of modern leisure.

Whitbread day at Sandown Park was a triumph. More than that, it was an education. Its enlightened programme attracted almost 20,000 people, the biggest crowd on this day for more than a decade, and held their attention for upwards of five hours. It had two key virtues, quality and variety, and while these can never be easily replicated on a rainy Tuesday at Leicester, the mix must not be regarded as unrepeatable.

Indeed, the reaction to a day that Sandown justly calls unique is that it must cease to be so, as of next year. Into the ferment that is the 2000 fixture list should be tossed a new priority — the creation of three more weekend mixed meetings, so that two are in future scheduled at each end of the summer.

The criteria must be strict. These fixtures must be showpieces, the window displays designed to lure a new audience. No half measures, no stinting on the peripheral attractions. Good horses are desirable, top jockeys and winsome facilities essential. First-timers want to see Fallon and Dunwoody, Dettori and McCoy; they also want to eat and drink without checking their supplies of Lomotil. Newbury could do it, so too Haydock, but only if their attitude is as committed to the cause as was evident in Esher on Saturday.

Sandown's elementary achievement was to unite the Flat and jumping codes. Nothing new here, nothing faintly novel, in fact. Mixed meetings were once commonplace but the practice fell into disuse, largely, I suspect, because they threw up complications that were more easily ducked. They could also seem a half-hearted compromise, the best of neither world, but, on Saturday, Sandown chalked up perhaps the most deliciously eclectic menu racing has known, and made it sing.

Even on paper, the ingredients were appealing — seven races, four on the Flat and three over fences, the distances ranging from the initial five-furlong dash to the daunting 29 furlongs and 24 fences of the feature event. Every racecourse worth its salt — and we must be talking of at least two dozen here — would die for such a card. But perhaps not many would have staged it with such élan.

Of course, Sandown has the facilities, the financial backing and an affluent catchment area. It is an enviable start. But if the 43rd year of the Whitbread card was also the best, it was because an unusually progressive committee created around the principal races an environment of entertainment rather than exclusivity.

Channel 4 set the mood at breakfast time. Its *Morning Line* show is never less than jaunty but it has additional animation on this all-for-one day. Jim McGrath, of *Timeform*, was only slightly goaded by John Francome into telling us that 12 of the 19 Whitbread runners might as well stay at home. Eulogy was among those to attract the dismissive red pen. I wondered at that one.

By mid-morning, the queues had begun to grow. I spent an hour, covering a painful mile, following Richard Rowe's horsebox, Eulogy within. Made a superstitious mental note to back it.

The racecards were £2 each, which seemed steep until you opened them. They were the best I have seen, the equivalent of a decent football programme. The tipping page suggested Eulogy "looks a stand-out each-way selection at around the 16-1 mark". It all adds up, I thought, checking my wallet.

The first success of the day was the Tote challenge, in which jumping beat the Flat. Tony McCoy said he had suggested it should be a steeplechase — "I told Frankie the railway fences are very attractive" — and Philip Mitchell, who supplied the horses, joked that he had swapped the numbercloths, "because Frankie had been so desperate to win".

Everyone, meanwhile, was struck by the public response. More struck than they should have been, for this was a commercial certainty. Top jockeys are there to be promoted and at last it is being recognised. Hopefully, the lunchtime crowds for this gimmick event, and the masses of youthful autograph hunters, will persuade the most reactionary forces that starmaking is good for the health.

The Whitbread was not won by a star. It was won by Barry Fenton, so much a Nationwide League jockey that the announcer got his name wrong during the presentations, and by Richard Rowe, a trainer who had saddled the pauperish sum of five winners in a season so wretched that he admitted: "Three months ago, I wrote it off and started thinking about next year."

Next year, administrators please note, must contain more glittering, diverting days like this, when the Whitbread winner, naturally unbacked by a correspondent immune to superstition and coincidence, was Eulogy. His name was a testament to the occasion.

Eulogy plays to the crowd after winning the Whitbread at Sandown on Saturday. Photograph: Tony Harris

SOUTHWELL

ROB WRIGHT

2.15 Denbrae
2.45 Oversman
3.15 Automatic
3.45 **NIGHT LIFE** (nap)
4.15 Foxkey
4.45 Crystal Lass

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.45 **KEEN HANDS.**

Our Newmarket correspondent: 3.15 Automatic. 3.45 **NIGHT LIFE** (nap). 4.45 Indian City.

GOING: STANDARD — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE — SIS

2.15 BRIE AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP
(£2,019: 1m) (16 runners)

101	(11)	S0030-	MILAD 144J (T) (Mrs J Wood) K Bell 4-11-7	B Kandelen (5)	24
102	(7)	630/0-	LAY THE BLAME 132J (F,S) (J Gordon) M Hammond 6-11-6	P Griffiths (7)	—
103	(16)	53/2-5	PRIMEVAL 51 (Old Style Partnership) K Comerford 5-11-4	J Mongan (3)	17
104	(14)	1-3432	JOHNNIE THE JOKER 6 (B,CD,G) J Leigh 8-11-1	Miss E Ramsden	37
105	(1)	/6630-	PURSUIVANT 27J (A Peake) M Hammond 5-11-0	A Dempsey	15
106	(13)	0-0024	DOMINO FLYER 28 (CD,G,S) (S Smith) Mrs A Swinbank 6-11-0	C Wilson	54
107	(6)	030	KENT 18 (P Cundell) P Cundell 4-10-11	S Stronge	40
108	(2)	500220	ALMAZHAR 21 (Sunpak Potatoes 2) J Eyre 4-10-9	Miss D Jones	49
109	(4)	60-312	DENBRAE 39 (C,F,G) (J Pearce) J Pearce 7-10-7	Mrs L Pearce	57
110	(5)	0604-6	GROVEFAIR LAD 19 (C) (D Garner) S Bowring 5-10-6	Mrs M Morris (3)	20
111	(3)	246634	TOM 20 (V,CD) (C Barber-Lomax) C Fairhurst 4-10-6	Mrs S Bosley	50
112	(15)	003-01	DANKA 41 (C) (S J V Construction) K Comerford 5-10-4	Mrs S Comerford (7)	49
113	(10)	245500	AWESOME VENTURE 20 (CD,S) M Chapman 9-10-3	A Bradley (5)	50
114	(12)	506602	DESERT INVADER 35 (CD,S) (D Chapman) D Chapman 8-10-3	Miss R Clark	[illegible]
115	(9)	00-000	SOCIETY KING 47 (R Sabey) J Banks 4-10-1	J Crowley	37
116	(8)	-00604	PINE RIDGE LAD 12 (CD,F,G) (E Gray) J L Harris 9-9-13	S Walker (5)	64

BETTING: 4-1 Johnnie The Joker, 6-1 Denbrae, 7-1 Desert Invader, 8-1 Domino Flyer, Tom, 10-1 Danka, 12-1 Almazhar, 14-1 others.

1998: WAIKIKI BEACH 7-10-9 Mrs J Moore (10-1) G L Moore 16 ran

FORM ANALYSIS

DENBRAE arrives here in good form and will get plenty of assistance from the saddle. Jeff Pearce's charge bumped into an on-song Waikiki Beach at Lingfield (1m) last time out having earlier beaten Almazhar (4lb better off) by ¾l with something to spare here (7f). Desert Invader was well beaten on both occasions. Denbrae can confirm the form and regain the winning thread. Domino Flyer ran poorly at Hamilton last time out but he reserves his best for the all-weather and, prior to his latest outing, had chased home Kingchip Boy in a claimer over course and distance where Awesome Venture (4lb better off) was 6¾l 5th and Pine Ridge Lad (8lb better off) 8¼l 6th. He may emerge as the biggest danger. Johnnie The Joker has been knocking on the door and maintained his consistent sequence when a 6l runner-up to Homestead at Pontefract (1m 2f) last week. However, this trip is arguably short of his best. Danka, who came from off a strong pace when flooring the long odds-on State Approval by 3l here last month (1m 3f), is another who could find this trip on the sharp side. Tom, who has been running creditably of late, and Grovefair Lad, who shaped encouragingly in a seller at Ripon this month after a lengthy lay-off, are others worthy of consideration.

2.45 LEICESTER CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,141: 1m 4f) (11 runners)

201	(6)	-24313	ALSAHIB 47 (CD) (S Channing-Williams) W Muir 6-9-6	Martin Dwyer	64
202	(1)	125300	MOONRAKING 6 (B,CD) (J Pointon & Sons) Miss S Wilton 6-8-12	N Pollard (3)	73
203	(3)	213/5-	OVERSMAN 61J (B,T,CD) (Marquesa de Moratalla) J FitzGerald 6-8-12	K Fallon	—
204	(4)	-12600	STATE APPROVAL 7 (CD,F) (K Nicholls) D Shaw 6-8-12	R Mullen (3)	71
205	(7)	3-3150	COUNT DE MONEY 25 (CD) (R Wheatley) S Bowring 4-8-11	J Quinn	75
206	(11)	230000	TIME OUT 41 (B,C) (Miss G O'Ferrall) D Carroll 4-8-7	R FitzPatrick (5)	58
207	(5)	-00423	SUPER-GEM 19 (Mrs J Bamforth) J Wainwright 4-8-5	G Bardwell	51
208	(8)	2460-0	CARROLLS MARC 41 (CD,F,G) (Mrs G Dunlop) Pat Mitchell 11-8-3	A Nicholls (5)	40
209	(10)	06/05-	COCHITI 21J (Equus Club) P Hiatt 5-8-3	Joanna Badger (7)	—
210	(2)	0-4001	HILL FARM DANCER 20 (CD,F,G) (M Hughes) W Brisbourne 8-8-3	Iona Wands (5)	[illegible]
211	(9)	0600-0	SHOTLEY MARIE 19 (J Swinburne) N Bycroft 4-8-2	N Kennedy	55

BETTING: 7-2 Alsahib, 4-1 Oversman, 9-2 State Approval, 5-1 Moonraking, 13-2 Hill Farm Dancer, 8-1 Count De Money, 12-1 Super-Gem, 20-1 others

1998: STATE APPROVAL 5-9-0 C Carver (7-2) Miss S Wilton 8 ran

FORM ANALYSIS

State Approval, one of eight course winners in the line-up, won this race last year but he hasn't sparkled since winning a similar race to this over course and distance in March when Alsahib (8lb better off) was 13l back in third. Alsahib had previously beaten Moonraking (8lb better off) by 1½l and, given that the runner-up has since failed to distinguish himself in four subsequent outings, is taken to confirm the form. However, the most interesting of these has to be OVERSMAN, who will be having his first race in Britain on the Flat since finishing third to Backdrop, off a mark of 75, at Chester (1m 4f) nearly three years ago. Prior to that he had shown his effectiveness on this surface when winning a maiden over course and distance. Oversman will go to post fit from hurdling (has won sellers at Musselburgh and Doncaster this year) and the booking of Kieren Fallon suggests that connections mean business. Hill Farm Dancer has more on his plate than when beating Arctic Courier by 8l in a six-runner apprentice seller over course and distance earlier in the month. Count De Money fell off the radar behind Thrower at Leicester last time but he invariably gives his running on the all-weather and makes more appeal than any of the others.

3.15 DON NOBLE BOOKMAKERS MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,124: 1m) (12 runners)

301	(12)	4-	AUTOMATIC 208 (B Magnee) M Bell 9-0	M Fenton	57
302	(1)	06	BEYOND THE CLOUDS 6 (Camelot Members) J Wainwright 9-0	G Bardwell	35
303	(10)	56-	GRANDIOSO 173 (G Read) C Thornton 9-0	Dean McKeown	38
304	(11)	323620	HEATHYARDS JAKE 21 (L Morgan) R Hollinshead 9-0	P M Quinn (7)	[illegible]
305	(5)	0-	MARCIANO 187 (G Reed) C Thornton 9-0	D Pears	—
306	(7)		PUISSANTKOOLA (D Cooper) D Shaw 9-0	J Fanning	—
307	(8)	0-	ALIGN 177 (Wyck Hall Stud) J Hills 8-9	T Quinn	28
308	(3)	0	EVENING SCENT 54 (N Hetherton) J Hetherton 8-9	N Kennedy	22
309	(4)	0-65	FACE THE CLASS 6 (M Perkins) A Kelleway 8-9	L Dettori	51
310	(9)	0	SABANG 11 (S Posoh) Miss J A Camacho 8-9	L Charnock	—
311	(2)	54	SAMIYAH 13 (T) (A Foustok) Miss I Foustok 8-9	G Carter	58
312	(6)	500-2	TESS 20 (BF) (S Tindall) B Hills 8-9	A Eddery (5)	60

BETTING: 8-11 Tess, 4-1 Automatic, 8-1 Heathyards Jake, Samiyah, 14-1 Face The Class, 16-1 Beyond The Clouds, Sabang, 20-1 others

1998: BOLD KING 9-0 M Hills (4-5 fav) J Hills 8 ran

FORM ANALYSIS

Tess was backed down to odds on when running in a similar race to this here (7f) earlier in the month but, having looked the winner most of the way, she was outbattled by Cumbrian Blue close home. She could easily make amends here but the extra furlong is not sure to suit. Automatic was a promising 3½l fourth to Sir Jack on his debut at Newcastle (6f) last season but, on breeding, the son of Clantime is far from certain to get this trip. In the circumstances, it may pay to side with EVENING SCENT. James Hetherton's youngster, who has a staying pedigree, ran very green early on at Wolverhampton (1m) on his debut last month but got the hang of things towards the finish to eventually finish around 15l seventh to Prairie Wolf. He seems sure to benefit for his initial experience and, if getting off on terms, can spring a surprise. Samiyah ran a personal best to be 7½l fourth to Pussy Galore at Folkestone last time having previously finished 15l fifth of 14 to Tiger Talk at Folkestone where Face The Class, 1lb better off, was three lengths further adrift. Both will be suited by this step up to a mile. Align showed signs of ability on his debut at Newmarket towards the backend of last season and looks a better alternative than Heathyards Jake, who remains a maiden after 19 starts.

READING THE RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 ......B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F - fell. P - pulled up. U - unseated rider. B - brought down. S - slipped up. R - refused. D - disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps. (B - blinkers. V - visor. T - tongue strap. H - hood. E - Eyeshield. C - course winner. D - distance winner. CD course and distance winner. BF - beaten favourite in most recent race). Going on which horse has won (F - firm, good to firm, hard. G - good. S - soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight to be carried. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating

3.45 TOTE HANDICAP [SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE]
(3-Y-O: £7,298: 6f) (16 runners)

401	(10)	30-204	JAMES DEE 58 (Mrs A Jarvis) A Jarvis 9-7	S Clancy (7)	74
402	(4)	60-205	MOOCHA CHA MAN 7 (Mrs J McMahon) B McMahon 9-7	T Quinn	65
403	(16)	30-120	ASHOVER AMBER 28 (BF,CD) (T Cox) T Barron 9-6	T Sprake	61
404	(7)	150211	KEEN HANDS 35 (V,C) (A Peake) Mrs N Macauley 9-5	R Price	[illegible]
405	(1)	221233	CARRIE POOTER 10 (B,C,D,F) (S Woodall) T Barron 9-4	J Fortune	80
406	(8)	403400	CANTGETYOURBREATH 18 (V) (Mrs A Sanders) Mrs N Macauley 9-3	M Tebbutt	74
407	(11)	3550-	COLONEL SAM 244 (W Derry) J Glover 9-3	S Sanders	71
408	(15)	120-00	LA PAOLA 14 (S) (G Battocchi) B Meehan 9-2	G Hannon (7)	68
409	(6)	6024-1	LIVELY LADY 28 (V,D,S) (S Powell) J Jenkins 9-0	L Dettori	74
410	(13)	33-420	OFF HIRE 5 (S) (J Martin-Hoyes) C Smith 9-0	J F Egan	69
411	(14)	50633-	REGAL SONG 171 (Mrs Y Brierley) T Etherington 8-13	O Pears	64
412	(2)	0S10-0	BEVERLEY MONKEY 28 (B,D,F,G) (Monkey Partnership) J Berry 8-13	P Bradley (7)	82
413	(9)	40-012	SO WILLING 28 (BF,CD) (A Watson) M Dods 8-13	K Fallon	82
414	(12)	116-06	VALE OF LEVEN 47 (C,D,S) (Steer Arms Bellon) K Ryan 8-12	A McCarthy (3)	71
415	(3)	0010-3	NIGHT LIFE 21 (S) (Hon Mrs J Corbett) M Bell 8-12	M Fenton	69
416	(5)	602115	SOUNDS LUCKY 38 (BF,D) (P Dixon) N Littmoden 8-11	J Tate	77

BETTING: 4-1 Lively Lady, 7-1 Carrie Pooter, 8-1 So Willing, Night Life, 10-1 Ashover Amber, Keen Hands, Regal Song, 12-1 others

1998: KAYO 9-4 D Holland (14-1) T Etherington 14 ran

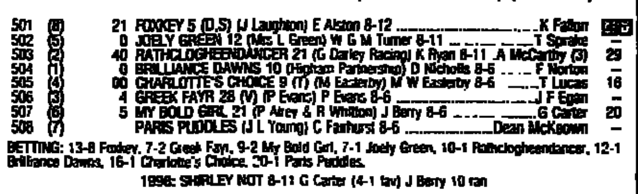
Michael Bell has made a pleasing start to the season and has a good chance of another winner with NIGHT LIFE. The daughter of Night Shift has been poorly drawn on her two starts since beating Lively Lady (7lb better off) ¾l at Yarmouth (5l 43yd, soft) last October and shaped particularly well on her reappearance when 4¾l third of 20 to Risky Valentine at Nottingham (6f, good to soft). She is nicely positioned in stall 3 here and her ability to handle soft ground suggests the Fibresand surface should suit her well. Lively Lady has yet to show the same level of form on sand as on turf but has an obvious chance racing off a 3lb lower mark than when beating Moocha Cha Man (7lb worse off) ¾l at Nottingham (6f, good to soft) last month, with Ashover Amber (6lb worse off) a further 9¼l back in seventh. The booking of Frankie Dettori takes the eye. Carrie Pooter has continued in good form since beating Dovedon Times 3l here (7f, standard) in March and is able to race off a 2lb lower mark than when beaten half a length into third behind Heavenly Miss at Thirsk (6f, good) ten days ago. Keen Hands recorded two selling-race wins here in the space of four days last month, most recently (5f, standard) beating Thornaby Girl a length. So Willing comes here in good heart after finishing a length second to Sharp Edge Boy at Hamilton (6f, heavy), with Carrie Pooter (1lb worse off) a short-head third and Beverley Monkey a well-beaten tenth

4.15 GLOUCESTER SELLING STAKES (2-Y-O: £1,851: 5f) (8 runners)

501	(8)	21	FOXKEY 5 (D,S) (J Laughton) E Alston 8-12	K Fallon	[illegible]
502	(5)	0	JOELY GREEN 12 (Mrs L Green) W G M Turner 8-11	T Sprake	—
503	(2)	40	RATHCLOGHEENDANCER 21 (G Darley Racing) K Ryan 8-11	A McCarthy (3)	29
504	(1)	0	BRILLIANCE DAWNS 10 (Higham Partnership) D Nicholls 8-6	F Norton	—
505	(4)	00	CHARLOTTE'S CHOICE 9 (T) (M Easterby) M W Easterby 8-6	T Lucas	16
506	(3)	4	GREEK FAYR 28 (V) (P Evans) P Evans 8-6	J F Egan	—
507	(6)	5	MY BOLD GIRL 21 (P Airey & R Whitton) J Berry 8-6	G Carter	20
508	(7)		PARIS PUDDLES (J L Young) C Fairhurst 8-6	Dean McKeown	—

BETTING: 13-8 Foxkey, 7-2 Greek Fayr, 9-2 My Bold Girl, 7-1 Joely Green, 10-1 Rathclogheendancer, 12-1 Brilliance Dawns, 16-1 Charlotte's Choice, 20-1 Paris Puddles.

1998: SHIRLEY NOT 8-11 G Carter (4-1 fav) J Berry 10 ran



FOXKEY, claimed out of Brian Rothwell's yard after her debut length second to Chiko in a Doncaster seller (5f, soft), paid her new connections an instant dividend when beating French Mystery 2½l in the same grade at Catterick (5f, soft). She is obviously more than capable of holding her own at this level and can overcome her 6lb penalty. Rathclogheendancer, 4½l behind the selection in fourth in the Doncaster seller won by Chiko, appeared to have his limitations exposed when subsequently 17l eighth of nine to Master Fay at Newcastle (5f, good) and appears less of a threat than Greek Fayr. She showed signs of greenness when finishing 7¼l fourth of seven to Safuzz in a maiden auction event at Hamilton (5f, heavy) on her debut and should do better for that experience. My Bold Girl was easy to back (7-2 from 2-1) when a never threatening 4l fifth of nine to Burn Park in a Nottingham seller (5f, good to soft). Like Joely Green, 10l ninth of 13 to Tara's Girl in a maiden auction event at Beverley (5f, good to firm), she too should do better in time.

4.45 STILTON FILLIES HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,264: 7f) (16 runners)

601	(11)	600-	QUEEN TITANIA 222 (Racing Post Syndicate) A McNae 9-7	T G McLaughlin	50
602	(10)	310-00	ISLE OF SODOR 28 (F) (Auldyn Stud Ltd) K Hogg 9-7	Dean McKeown	54
603	(12)	320-45	PATSY STONE 21 (I Fraser) M Kettle 9-6	T Sprake	59
604	(9)	210-	INDIAN CITY 238 (F) (Mrs P D Savill) R Guest 9-4	K Darley	34
605	(1)	03344-	CRYSTAL LASS 161 (White House Racing Club) J Balding 9-2	J Edmunds	64
606	(6)	000-	BECKON 237 (Lady Burnham) T Barron 9-0	J Fortune	43
607	(2)	50-1	LITTLE ITALY 17 (A Pecoraro) P Cole 8-13	L Dettori	61
608	(3)	431264	RED VENUS 25 (B,CD) (Inside Track Racing) Miss G Kelleway 8-12	S Sanders	[illegible]
609	(15)	0606-0	GYPSY MUSIC 21 (R Cook) M Brittain 8-9	D Mernagh (5)	64
610	(14)	0400-	LIVELY PROJECT 194 (Three Plus One Racing 98) M Dods 8-8	F Lynch	38
611	(5)	360431	E B PEARL 20 (C) (T Umpleby) N Bycroft 8-6	Martin Dwyer	64
612	(8)	0-4004	SLIGHTLY DUSTY 7 (V) (D Maloney) P Evans 8-4	J F Egan	44
613	(13)	06000-	GEEFORCE 181 (R Cook) M Brittain 8-3	G Carter	48
614	(16)	660-	TULLYNESSLE 272 (Bro Racing Club) M W Easterby 8-1	G Parkin	54
615	(4)	000-0	NIMINY-PIMINY 25 (B) (P Savill) M Johnston 7-12	J Quinn	36
616	(7)	00-000	FREE FINISH 10 (T) (P Gruncy) N Tinkler 7-12	L Charnock	44

BETTING: 4-1 Little Italy, 5-1 Red Venus, 13-2 Crystal Lass, 8-1 E B Pearl, 10-1 Indian City, Beckon, Niminy-Piminy, 12-1 others

1998: ELBA MAGIC 9-1 D R McCabe (12-1) C Dwyer 14 ran

A low-grade handicap which may go the way of LITTLE ITALY. Although clearly one of her stable's lesser lights, she showed that she can pay her way at the right level when beating Jonathans Girl 3½l in a six-runner Lingfield maiden (6f, standard) at the start of the month. Queen Titania is similarly unexposed and was not disgraced when finishing 7½l eighth of 17 to Houston Time in a Yarmouth maiden (7f, good to soft) in September. Indian City disappointed after beating Light On The Waves 2l in a Leicester seller (6f, good) last August, but E B Pearl appeared to find some improvement when staying on to beat Gochunos a neck in a claimer here (5f) last time and should not be inconvenienced by this step back up in distance. Crystal Lass ran her usual solid race when signing off last season with a 6½l fourth of 11 to Seren Tag in a maiden here (6f, standard) but is untried over seven furlongs. Red Venus has been dropped 2lb in the handicap since her 11½l fourth to Rendita at Lingfield (7f, standard) but may need to come down further to return to winning ways.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
A Kelleway	6	12	50.0	R FitzPatrick	10	36	27.8
K Bell	3	12	25.0	L Dettori	17	80	21.3
Miss S Wilton	12	48	25.0	K Fallon	22	105	21.0
B Meehan	7	30	23.3	G Hannon	3	16	18.8
M Johnston	43	223	19.3	G Parkin	12	71	16.9
J Banks	7	37	18.9	N Pollard	6	36	16.7

PLUMPTON

ROB WRIGHT

2.00 Mothers Help
2.30 King's Whisper
3.00 Joliver
3.30 Leitrim Cottage (nb)
4.00 Ruth's Boy
4.30 Sorbiere

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) — SIS

2.00 RADIO CABURN FOUR YRS OLD FILLIES NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O: £1,918: 2m 1f) (4 runners)

1 2144 AMOROSO 33 (D,S) N Henderson 11-0 ......M A Fitzgerald [illegible]
2 5454 FLUSH 23 (S) M Pipe 11-0 ......A P McCoy 102
3 6244 MOTHERS HELP 12 (S) D Williams 11-0 ......R Johnson 88
4 000 LADY OF THE LAMP 23 P Jones 10-7 ......D Leahy —

11-10 Amoroso, 2-1 Flush, 11-4 Mothers Help, 50-1 Lady of The Lamp.

2.30 CREDIT AND GUARANTEE NOVICES CHASE
(£2,461: 3m 1f 110yd) (5)

1 -141 EMERALD STATEMENT 56 (CD,S) D Grissell 9-12-0 B Fenton [illegible]
2 3-61 KING'S WHISPER 9 (G,S) G Hubbard 6-11-8 ......R Thornton 86
3 4/P0 RELUCKINO 34 M Wilkinson 9-11-2 ......W Marston —
4 3435 SALISONG 98 (S) J Whyte 10-11-2 ......J Goldstein (3) 95
5 -0UF THE HAPPY MONARCH 115 Mrs A J Bowlby 7-11-2 ......Mr T Gibney (5) —

4-6 Emerald Statement, 2-1 King's Whisper, 8-1 Salisong, 16-1 others.

3.00 COBWEB BUILDERS CLAIMING HURDLE
(£2,163: 2m 4f) (10)

1 F-0F YUBRALEE 130 (F,G,S) M Pipe 7-11-12 ......G Supple (3) —
2 -2P2 RUSTY REEL 21 (S) W G M Turner 9-11-10 ......J Power (7) 102
3 1420 BALANAK 26 (G,S) D Gandolfo 8-11-6 ......R Johnson [illegible]
4 -501 JOLIVER 21 (T,D,S) M Pipe 11-11-4 ......A P McCoy 107
5 /3P- NOT MISTAKEN 677 (BF,F,G,S) J Neville 10-11-4 R Thornton —
6 060P SOVEREIGN 66 J Panvert 5-10-13 ......T Peoples (7) 81
7 6531 CASTLE SECRET 23 (D,F,G,S) D Burchell 13-10-12 D J Burchell 76
8 3350 DERISBAY 34 (V,C,F,G,S) J Bridger 11-10-12 M Batchelor (3) 73
9 4302 GOLDENACRES 34 M Meagher 4-10-7 ......D Creech (7) 82
10 55-0 LITTLE MISS ROCKER 216 (F) R Head 5-10-7 J R Kavanagh —

2-1 Joliver, 4-1 Rusty Reel, 5-1 Balanak, 8-1 Castle Secret, 10-1 Yubralee, Not Mistaken, Derisbay, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: D Burchell, 3 winners from 6 runners, 50.0%; M Pipe, 34 from 75, 45.3%; J Neville, 11 from 27, 40.7%; M Wilkinson, 3 from 8, 37.5%; G Charles-Jones, 4 from 11, 36.4%; Miss H Knight, 10 from 28, 35.7%.

JOCKEYS: C Murray, 3 winners from 8 rides, 37.5%; A McCoy, 41 from 115, 35.7%; J Tizzard, 4 from 14, 28.6%; J Kavanagh, 13 from 58, 22.4%; R Johnson, 9 from 41, 22.0%; M Fitzgerald, 15 from 71, 21.1%.

3.30 HIGHFIELD FARM (CHARLIE MUDDLE) TROPHY (HANDICAP CHASE)
(£2,868: 2m 5f) (11)

1 42FP SEYMOURSWIFT 20 (B,D,G,S) D Gandolfo 9-11-10 ......C Llewellyn 99
2 3SAU TAKE MY SIDE 33 (S) M J Roberts 7-11-3 ......T Peoples (7) 98
3 6462 WHIPPERS DELIGHT 21 (CD,G,S) G Charles-Jones 11-11-3 ......M Batchelor (3) [illegible]
4 2/SP ZAMBEZI SPIRIT 40 (CD,F,G) Mrs M Jones 10-11-0 D Byrne 75
5 30PP INDIAN RUN 23 (B,CD,G,S) R Hodges 10-10-12 ......A P McCoy 86
6 PP2F CAPO CASTANUM 9 (C,F,G) Miss H Knight 10-10-12 ......A Thornton 85
7 PF25 EPSILO DE LA RONCE 21 (G) A H Harvey 7-10-10 ......J A McCarthy 105
8 3404 JASON'S BOY 4 (B,F,G,S) J Bradley 9-10-7 ......R Johnson 102
9 05P TUCKERS TOWN 13 (D,S) R Rowe 7-10-7 ......B Fenton 106
10 F5U1 LEITRIM COTTAGE 21 (B,CD,G) T McGovern 8-10-0 ......C Murray (7) 48
11 3354 CAN'T SAY 37 (S) J Bradley 7-10-0 ......A Maguire 92

9-2 Jason's Boy, 5-1 Capo Castanum, 13-2 Seymourswift, Tuckers Town, 7-1 Take My Side, 8-1 Leitrim Cottage, 10-1 Whippers Delight, Zambezi Spirit, Epsilo De La Ronce, 12-1 others.

4.00 STEYNING NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,145: 2m 4f) (9)

1 0143 ILLUMINATE 13F (S) D O'Brien 6-11-10 ......Mr N Fehily (7) 76
2 3240 POLYPHONY 37 D O'Brien 5-11-9 ......A P McCoy [illegible]
3 /P05 OTAGO HEIGHTS 21 Mrs J Pitman 7-11-3 ......M A Fitzgerald 33
4 3600 COUNTRY BOY 37 J Bridger 8-11-0 ......M Batchelor (3) 58
5 0-2P SHANUKE 74F S Woodman 7-10-12 ......A Maguire 75
6 5P65 HARDY BREEZE 21 D Grissell 8-10-10 ......B Fenton 71
7 621P RUTH'S BOY 133 (F,S) Mrs A E Johnson 10-10-9 ......R Johnson —
8 0231 GOLDEN FAWN 23 (C,G) M Haynes 6-10-6 ......J Tizzard 77
9 00UP TUDOR TOWN 19 P Purdy 11-10-0 ......M Sharratt 54

7-2 Polyphony, 4-1 Illuminate, 5-1 Shanuke, Golden Fawn, 7-1 Otago Heights, Country Boy, 8-1 Ruth's Boy, 14-1 others.

4.30 DAVE SMART'S BIRTHDAY HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,285: 2m 4f) (9)

1 43-5 ILE DE LIBRATE 21 (CD,G) R O'Sullivan 5-11-10 ......M A Fitzgerald 92
2 3160 HAL HOO YAROOM 37 (CD,F,S) J Jenkins 6-11-6 ......A P McCoy 101
3 502F BESSIE BROWNE 21 (BF,G) G Hubbard 7-11-5 ......A Maguire 103
4 1661 MILLMOUNT 38 (B,T,CD,G,S) T McGovern 9-11-2 ......C Murray (7) 100
5 6202 BIGWIG 21 (B,F,G) G L Moore 6-11-0 ......M Batchelor (3) 97
6 1021 SORBIERE 21 (CD,F,G,S) D Grissell 12-10-12 ......J Goldstein (3) 94
7 1534 DOCTOR BRAVIOUS 6F (B,C,S) J R Poulton 6-10-11 ......Edgar Byrne (7) 103
8 3322 AUGUST TWELFTH 42 (CD,G,S) D O'Brien 11-10-6 ......Mr N Fehily (7) [illegible]
9 23-F PERSIAN MYSTIC 219 (G) D Wintle 7-10-5 ......W Marston —

9-2 Sorbiere, 11-2 Bessie Browne, Bigwig, 6-1 Millmount, August Twelfth, 7-1 Ile De Librate, Doctor Bravious, 8-1 others.

Pritchard keeps up pressure

POINT-TO-POINT
By Carl Evans

JULIAN PRITCHARD maintained his bid for a third national championship with a double on Saturday, but the day's leading rider was Michael Worthington, who rode a treble, his first, at the Teme Valley meeting.

Worthington, 35, recorded two victories for Prudence Glassford's Wrenbury stable, on Barnaby Boy and Bobbing Along and added Althrey Blue, trained by Sheila Crow.

Worthington said yesterday: "It was marvellous to ride a treble, unfortunately, with Sunday racing, there was no chance to have a party. You have to take your sport seriously when you get the chance to ride good horses."

Julian Pritchard had cause to be grateful to his mother, Gill, after riding Blue Rosette (7-4) to victory in the confined at the Cotswold Vale Farmers' fixture. Mrs Pritchard trains Blue Rosette for Keith Dance. Her son also won the hunt race on Tirley Missile (3-1) to take his score for the season to 31.

MEETING POINTS

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE GOING TODAY

EARLY BIRD
Best value this morning
Valentine Waltz
(1,000 Guineas)
7-1 with Coral
Newmarket, Sunday

SOUTHWELL
Flat, 6-race card
1st race: 2.15
Winning favourites: 33.6%
Long-distance traveller: Joely Green (4.15), 188 miles

PLUMPTON
Jumps, 6-race card
1st race: 2.00
Winning favourites: 40.8%
Long-distance traveller: Castle Secret (3.00), 191 miles

Underfoot conditions
Standard Hard Firm Good Soft Heavy

See racecards for detailed going

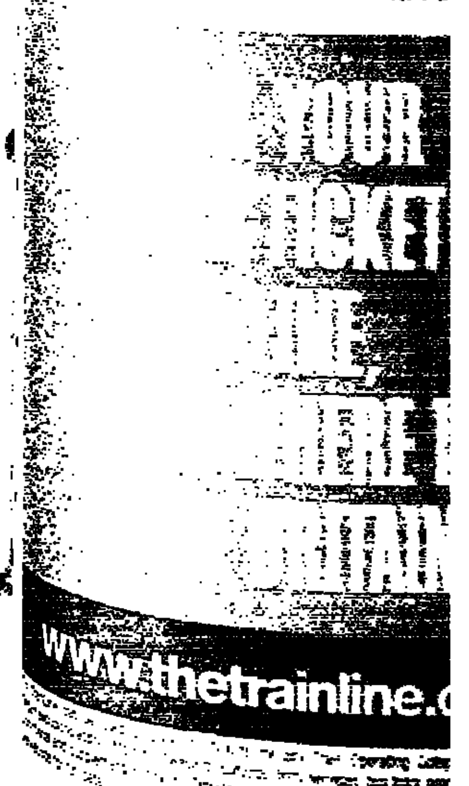
FLAT LEADERS

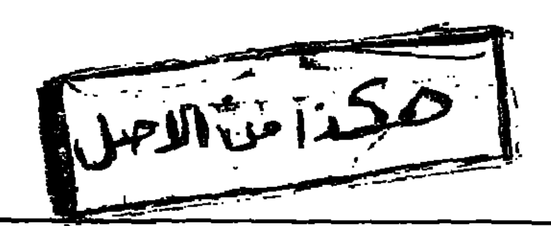
TRAINERS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Days since win	Level stakes
B Hills	15	11	6	2	+19.07
J Dunlop	15	16	7	2	-4.24
M Channon	14	9	0	11	-2.00

JOCKEYS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing sequence	Level stakes
T Quinn	24	14	8	0	+1.91
K Fallon	18	23	10	1	-1.34
L Dettori	17	9	10	7	+14.81





RUGBY LEAGUE: BRONCOS STALL AGAIN AS RHINOS STEP UP A GEAR

Leeds revival averts Wembley worries

Huddersfield Giants 20
Leeds Rhinos 42

By Christopher Irvine

WHILE London Broncos have been losing players and matches at an alarming rate, Leeds Rhinos attended to their pre-*Wembley jitters with a* suitably confident display ahead of *the Silk Cut* Challenge Cup final on Saturday, for which they are the 8-1 odds-on favourites.

From the way they went *through the motions of their* two previous JJB Super *League games, Malcolm Reilly*, the Huddersfield Giants coach, observed beforehand that Leeds "obviously have Wembley on their minds". Not yesterday, however, as the Rhinos irresistibly cut loose in the *first half and kept their minds* on the job.

Unlike London, Leeds have the luxury of 22 fit players to choose from when the side for *the cup final is announced* tomorrow. No wonder Graham Murray, their coach, was smiling afterwards. "If I could have picked a game that would be good *for us, this was* the one. Everyone has come through with a clean bill of health," he said.

Huddersfield rallied well *from 30-6 down to give Leeds* a handy workout in the second *half. Reilly was under no illu*sions about London's task. "Today, they were playing for *their places and were right up* there," he said. "Leeds have quality across the park. Their outside backs are electric and exploited our brittleness on the edges of our defence."

Before the tidal wave, Huddersfield led when Goulding's chip to the posts bounced awk*wardly for Cummins and Jim* Lenihan picked up the pieces for the first of his three tries. It was the last that the Giants saw the Rhinos' line — until Lenihan's second try, early in the second half — as Leeds ran them from pillar to post in scoring six first-half tries.

Huddersfield were their own worst enemies, prompting Reilly to remark that they were better at pressurising themselves than their opponents. *After a penalty, the* defence was sucked in by *Sheridan's* darting run and Leeds worked Cummins over *on the left* before scoring his hundredth try for the club.

Since the semi-final defeat of Bradford Bulls, Adrian Morley has been guilty, like several other Leeds players, of a drop in intensity. He, too, was back *to his charging best and pow*ered over for the second try.

Paul Reilly offered the occasional glimpse of his promise as an attacking full back for Huddersfield. However, a dropped pass and a missed tackle in swift succession by the youngster were costly as *Daryl Powell and Marcus St* Hilaire took advantage with a try each.

A bout of fisticuffs between Fozzard and Fleary saw both serve ten minutes in the sin-bin. Fleary was later substituted, *after a high challenge on* Fozzard, to avoid any further trouble and possible disciplinary repercussions before the final on Saturday.

In the four minutes before the interval, Brad Godden, a member of Malcolm Reilly's Newcastle Knights side that triumphed in the 1997 Australian grand final, treated his *former coach to a fine try and* Leroy Rivett added the first of his two when he performed the soft-shoe shuffle around and between three defenders on the right.

As Leeds eased off, the tireless Goulding kept driving on his players and the rewards fol*lowed, with Lenihan's second* touchdown and another by Matt Sturm. An incident in which Jackson, the Leeds hooker, appeared to be felled was placed on report, but the visitors recovered their poise *when Rivett took advantage of* a poor pass by Boughton to scoot beneath the posts. Ryan Sheridan got the final Leeds try. On their charge towards Wembley, Leeds have the look of a side that are not going to be denied their first Challenge Cup victory for 21 years.

SCORERS: Huddersfield Giants: Tries: Lenihan (3), Sturm. Goals: Goulding (2). Leeds Rhinos: Tries: Rivett (2), Cummins, Morley, Powell, St Hilaire, Godden, Sheridan. Goals: Cummins (3), Harris (2).

HUDDERSFIELD GIANTS: P Reilly; D Arnold, P Loughlin, J Lenihan, J Bunyan, C Weston, B Goulding; N Fozzard, D Russell, J Berry, D Boughton, M Sturm, A Tangata-Toa. Substitutes: N Wright, G Shillabeer, I Pickavance, B Richards.

LEEDS RHINOS: M St Hilaire, L Rivett, M Golden, B Godden, F Cummins, D Powell, R Sheridan, D Fleary, T Newton, B McDermott, A Morley, A Farrell, A Hay. Substitutes: I Harris, P Sterling, L Jackson, J Mathiou.

Referee: K Kirkpatrick (Warrington).

Salford slip up again

GATESHEAD Thunder broke the 30-point barrier for the first time as they sentenced Salford Reds to their seventh consecutive defeat of the JJB Super League season yesterday. The defeat increased the pressure on Andy Gregory, the Salford coach, as the league newcomers recorded a convincing 38-14 victory after holding a 28-4 interval lead. Ben Sammut, Thunder's leading scorer, began the rout with a try after just 97 seconds and the home side never looked back. Salford did not get on to the scoreboard until they were 28 points in arrears. The victory, Gateshead's fourth in five games, took Shaun McRae's side into seventh place in the table.



Loroupe has time to wave to the Balmoral crowd as she wins the ten kilometres yesterday

TENNIS

Henman springs doubles surprise

From Alix Ramsay
Tennis Correspondent
in Monte Carlo

THERE are those, many a Briton is among them, who believe that the clay-court season is a penance to be suffered be*fore sanity is restored and the* tennis circuit rolls into Wimbledon — so it comes as something of a surprise to discover that Tim Henman, alongside Olivier Delaître, was the only man to win a title outright at the Monte Carlo Open. The Anglo-French partnership *took the doubles crown*, beating Jiri Novak and David Rikl 6-2, 6-3, while Gustavo Kuerten took the singles title when Marcelo Rios pulled out of the final after 13 games.

It marked the return of the *curse of the clay courts*. Last year, the two main events leading into the French Open ended with a whimper when Alex Corretja pulled out of the final in Hamburg and Albert Costa pulled out in Rome. In Italy, it was Rios who benefited, taking the winner's cheque in a walkover, but yesterday he could not overcome a pulled thigh muscle and finally threw in the towel at 4-6, 1-2 down.

"Sometimes you have to listen to your body," Rios said. "In a five-set match, if you can play a couple of sets it is not enough. The injury is only going to get worse and I don't *want to be injured for another* five months, so I have to stop."

At least the prognosis is not that bad. After spending three months waiting for a stress *fracture of the lower back* to heal at the start of the year, Rios was relieved to find that two or three weeks' rest should do the trick this time. He felt the injury first two weeks ago and then hurt the muscle again on Saturday in his semifinal against Jérôme Golmárd. Beginning the final with heavy strapping, he had the trainer on and off the court to take the bandage off, put it back again and take it off, as he tried to find a way to play through the pain.

"Twenty minutes after you lose a match like that, you feel like you have lost in the first round," Rios said, "but then you start to realise that getting to the final is not bad."

Henman would probably agree with that sentiment — a final on clay is not bad at all, especially given that he had no intention of playing doubles at all. When Delaître was desperately searching for a partner at the last minute, Henman changed his mind and is now £50,000 richer as a result. Doubles may not be Henman's primary concern, but the chance to get a *little more match* play on a surface that has always caused him trouble can do nothing but good.

"I just feel much more com*fortable on the court now*," he said. "We are both pleasantly surprised, but from the word go we understood each other's games. Just to be practising in *match conditions* can only be beneficial and winning is always a good habit to be in."

Sullivan increases Hull's concern

Hull Sharks 10
St Helens............................30

By Martin Richards

ST HELENS demonstrated again yesterday their peerless ability to score from long *range as the JJB Super League* leaders secured a seventh successive victory at the expense of stricken Hull Sharks.

Anthony Sullivan, the Great *Britain wing, was at the cut*ting edge of an expansive performance in the first half with two tries that effectively put the game out of the reach of op*ponents who, with eight regu*lars missing through injury, took to the field with four Academy youngsters in their lineup.

*Their misfortune was under*lined after only five minutes, when a break from Jim Leatham, their prop, was halted by a try-saving tackle from Paul *Sculthorpe, who then got up to* intercept a loose pass from Filie Seru to send Sullivan sprinting 60 metres for his first touchdown. Apollo Pere*lini strolled through an invit*ing gap for a second try from Sean Long's cut-out pass four minutes later.

Sullivan's second try was even more spectacular, for he cut inside and raced 90 metres to the posts, but if was a lesson for Hull, they showed that they had failed to learn it *when Kieron Cunningham*, the St Helens hooker, broke quickly from dummy half on a thrilling 40-metre charge three minutes after the restart. *Cunningham then turned pro*vider when he sent Fereti Tui*lagi racing* clear who fed the supporting Long for a fifth try.

Long, who improved all five tries, was a constant danger, but St Helens were guilty of poor execution and overrunning the ball and Paul King and Richard Fletcher, the Hull youngsters, took the game to their more illustrious opponents in the final quarter.

Rob Nolan, the wing, produced two tries in the final ten minutes, butthe gulf in class was clear and Hull face a crucial game against Wakefield a week today that could have a crucial bearing on their survival hopes.

SCORERS: Hull Sharks: Tries: Nolan (2). Goals: Prescott (2). St Helens: Tries: Sullivan (2), Perelini, Cunningham, Long. Goals: Long (5).

HULL SHARKS: S Prescott; F Seru, G Hallas, L Campbell, R Nolan, A Purcell, G Lester, S Barrow, M Hall, S Craven, J Leatham, P King, R Roberts. Substitutes: A Ireland, R Fletcher, R Horne, P Cooke.

ST HELENS: P Atcheson, F Tuilagi, K Iro, A Stewart, A Sullivan, S Barrow, S Long, J O'Neill, K Cunningham, S Nickle, C Joynt, A Perelini, P Sculthorpe. Substitutes: C Smith, V Matautia, P Wellens, T Jonkers.

Referee: R Smith (Castleford).

Castleford shatter their Wigan jinx

Wigan Warriors 8
Castleford Tigers...............24

By Peter Wilson

CASTLEFORD Tigers, who had failed to beat Wigan in all six Super League attempts, *laid that dismal record to rest* at the seventh time of asking at Central Park yesterday. They outplayed the champions, who looked a mere shadow of the *team that had swept to the title* last year.

Resolute defence restricted the Warriors to a single try — and that came as the result of *an error by Castleford*, while in attack the Tigers were dominant, crossing the line four times. No wonder Stuart Raper, the Castleford coach, described the result as "one of the highlights of my coaching career". More to the point, it emphasised that the race for honours this season will not be restricted to the big names.

John Monie, the Wigan coach, was left searching for the solution as his side suffered their third defeat, one more than the entire season in thwe league a year ago.

*For Castleford, there is eve*ry reason to feel optimistic that they can be in the reckoning come play-off time. They dominated from the start, going ahead after 11 minutes, when Davis scored the opening try.

This was an early sign that *Wigan are not the awesome op*position of old and the crowd did not have long to wait for confirmation with another Castleford try, this time from Wells *after a four-man move* stretched the Wigan defence.

Wigan's only reply in the first half was a penalty by Farrell and they left the field at the break to a chorus of jeers and boos, not a regular sound at Central Park. Yet there was no improvement after the interval. Instead, Castleford increased their lead when Vowles scored in the 53rd minute, *with the home defence conspic*uous by its absence.

Within five minutes of Wigan scoring their solitary try, their defence was broken *again, Harland making the* touchdown.

SCORERS: Wigan Warriors: Try: Reber. Goals: Farrell (2). Castleford Tigers: Tries: Davis, Wells, Vowles, Harland. Goals: Tonks (3).

WIGAN WARRIORS: W Davies, J Robinson, D Moore, G Connolly, P Jones, G Florimo, T Smith, N Cowie, M Cassidy, T Mestrov, L Gilmour, D Betts, A Farrell. Substitutes: B Goldspink, T O'Connor, M Reber, L Bretherton.

CASTLEFORD TIGERS: J Flowers, J Wells, M Eagar, F Maloney, D Rogers, D Orr, B Davis, D Sampson, A Raper, N Sykes, D Fritz, L Harland, A Vowles. Substitutes: J Pickering, I Tonks, G Tallec, D Ellison.

Referee: S Ganson (St Helens).

Road record puts gloss on Radcliffe's fine spring

ATHLETICS

By David Powell
Athletics Correspondent

WITH a brush in her hand, Paula Radcliffe is to spend the next ten days decorating *her flat in the* French Pyrenees, but already she has had a busy spring painting by numbers. This month Radcliffe has set British and Commonwealth record figures for 10,000 metres and a world record *on* the road for five miles. She is not done yet. Next month *she* is likely to make her first attempt on a track world record.

Radcliffe is under more pressure from the sport's promoters than she has been from any athlete in her last two races. She said that she *was being urged to try to* break Sonia O'Sullivan's two miles world record of 9min 19.56sec at Loughborough on May 23, when the BBC *begins its outdoor track cover*age under its new five-year contract. The search has begun to find pacemakers.

"I appreciate that the BBC would like something special there and, if it is organised properly with *pacemakers, I* would probably give it a try." Radcliffe said after taking seven seconds off her own five miles road world record *in the grounds of Balmoral* Castle on Saturday. Breaking away from Jackline Maranga, the Commonwealth 1,500 metres champion from *Kenya, almost from the start*, Radcliffe won by more than a minute, in *24min 47sec*.

A fortnight earlier, Radcliffe had taken eight seconds *off her British and Common*wealth 10,000 metres record, leading from the gun and establishing a 30-metre lead on the first lap, recording *30min 40.70sec. At Balmoral*, Radcliffe was in no rush to talk up her chances of a successful world championships in Seville this summer, under*standably, given her unfortu*nate experience last year.

After achieving precisely the record double that she has managed again this month, Radcliffe went into the summer with hopes high for the European championships in Budapest. However, she picked up a virus and could finish only fifth in the 5,000 metres. This summer *she hopes for the "bit of luck"* that deserted her last year. "When you are training hard, you are always on that fine line," Radcliffe said.

Radcliffe is undecided whether to go for the 5,000 or *10,000 metres in Seville. She* holds the challengers at both distances in equal esteem. "If I am at my best and they are at their best, I am probably *not going to beat them*," Radcliffe said. "But, in the championships, it's luck on the day. I would never say I am not capable of winning."

By showing brilliant form now, Radcliffe acknowledged that she will be under greater pressure to perform well in the main summer champion*ship*. "It raises people's expectations," she said. "That happened a bit last year, but that is part of the game."

Tegla Loroupe, the wom*en's marathon world record*-holder from Kenya, won the ten kilometres at Balmoral yesterday, topping up a bank balance from which she is putting the six children of her deceased sister through private school. *Loroupe's win*ning margin was as clear-cut as Radcliffe's, only seven days after winning the Rotterdam Marathon.

Results, page 38

Bruised Broncos remain optimistic

London Broncos 18
Warrington Wolves............30

By David Lawrenson

DESPITE witnessing his side's fourth *successive defeat* and seeing a succession of players leaving the field for treatment, Dan Stains, the London Broncos coach, refus*es to be pessimistic about* his team's chances in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final on Saturday. When asked about the string of defeats going into the *Wembley showpiece*, he said: "That's neither here nor there. It would have concerned *me if* we had just got blown off *the* park, but I thought the commitment was first class."

Tries for Warrington *Wolves by* Alan Hunte, Lee Penny and Mark Forster were countered by scores *from Mat* Tosback and Tulsen Tollett and when Martin Offiah grabbed another just before half-time to give London an *18-16 lead, it looked as though* their fortunes might be about to change.

Instead, two tries from Jason Roach and one by Toa Ko*he-Love killed off their* challenge and Warrington thoroughly deserved their win. They played smart, aggressive football and their centre pairing of Hunte and Kohe-Love is beginning to blossom. *Equally impressive was* Lee Briers, orchestrating affairs from scrum half.

Stains is confident that his injury worries will clear be*fore Wembley*. However, there is still a question mark over whether Shaun Edwards will play. The man himself *seems* determined to do so, but Stains will make the decision after consulting his medical staff on Tuesday.

SCORERS: London Broncos: Tries: Toshack, Tollett, Offiah. Goals: Smyth (2), Tollett. Warrington Wolves: Tries: Hunte, Penny, Forster, Roach (2), Kohe-Love. Goals: Briers (3).

LONDON BRONCOS: T Tollett, R Smyth, C Ryan, G Fleming, M Offiah, K Hammond, G Air, S Rotchless, R Beazley, M Salter, S Millard, D Peters, M Toshack. Substitutes: D Callaway, A Spencer, A Seibold, S Hughes.

WARRINGTON WOLVES: L Penny, J Roach, T Kohe-Love, A Hunte, M Forster, S Wilson, L Briers, A Leathem, D Farrar, G Chambers, S Gilhes, S McCurrie, M Wainwright. Substitutes: J Duffy, M Hilton, D Busby, I Knott.

Referee: N Oddy (Halifax).

Kingston looks ahead to Olympics

JUDO

By John Goodbody

DANNY KINGSTON produced the best performance by a home fighter at the British Open judo championships in *Birmingham* yesterday to win the light-middle*weight division. The opposition was im*mense, for many of the 17 competing countries had come to Birmingham to experience the conditions in which the world championships will be held in October.

Kingston, usually a lightweight, moved up a category as he is assured of a place in *his usual class* at the European championships in Slovakia next month. He beat a Japanese, a Frenchman and then a Moroccan before defeating Graeme Randall, Britain's premier competitor and the *Commonwealth champion, by a split deci*sion in the semi-finals. The final against Ziggy Tabacznik, of Holland, was more decisive.

Kingston dominated the bout and halfway through produced an immaculately timed leg throw *to dump the Dutchman* on his back. Kingston weighs 77kg and will now concentrate on losing four kilos for the European championships, which he won in 1996.

"Obviously I would like to win again, but I am regarding the event as a stepping-stone," he said. "I particularly want to get a medal at the world championships to qualify for the Olympics."

Britain's other winner was Georgina Singleton, a featherweight, who defeated Zoizic Pallancher, of France. However, Debbie Allan, winner of the Dutch Open this year, was absent. Provided Allan is fit, she will get the place for the European championships.

In the light-heavyweights, Keith Davis beat Min Soo Kin, the Olympic silver medal-winner from South Korea. *However*, in the final, he came up against Sung-Keun Park, another South Korean, and was *overwhelmed*.

RACING RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S SIX MEETINGS

Sandown Park

Going: chase course: good, good to soft in places; Flat: soft, good to soft in places

2.15 (5f 6yd) 1, **Damalis** (W Supple, 5-1); 2, *Light The Rocket* (8-1); 3, Midnish Two (14-1). Saphire 7-2 fav. 9 ran. Hd, 1l. E Alston. Tote: £5.80; £2.00, £2.80, £3.10. DF: £29.30. CSF: £36.03. Tricast: £416.38.

2.50 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, **Dark Stranger** (A P McCoy, 4-1); 2, *Fantaron* (100-30); 3, Andsuephi (11-4 fav). 5 ran. 2½l, 29l. M Pipe. Tote: £4.20; £2.00, £2.40. DF: £10.30. CSF: £14.88.

3.30 (3m 5f 110yd ch) 1, **Eulogy** (B Fenton, 14-1); 2, Betty's Boy (15-2); 3, Jathib (20-1); 4, Fine Thyne (20-1). Bobbyjo (6th) 100-30 fav. 19 ran. 3½l, 1l. R Rowe. Tote: £15.10; £2.30, £1.80, £5.20, £5.60. DF: £48.20. Tote Trifecta: £10,526.10. CSF: £92.25. Tricast: £1,936.41.

4.10 (1m 2f 7yd) 1, **Fantastic Light** (D Holland, 13-2); 2, Dehoush (13-2); 3, Glamis (11-10 fav). 7 ran. NR: Adnaan. Sh hd, 1½l. Sir Michael Stoute. Tote: £7.00; £2.90, £2.90. DF: £20.80. CSF: £43.14.

4.45 (1m 2f 7yd) 1, **Generous Rosi** (T Quinn, 100-30 fav); 2, Evening World (12-1); 3, Dark Shell (7-1). 9 ran. Sh hd, 1½l. J Dunlop. Tote: £3.80; £1.50, £2.50, £2.30. DF: £31.60. CSF: £40.75.

5.15 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, **Super Tactics** (A Thornton, 5-1); 2, Northern Starlight (7-2); 3, Mulligan (2-1 fav). 7 ran. NR: Edelweis du Moulin. 4l, 10l. R Alner. Tote: £6.60; £3.50, £1.50. DF: £14.50. CSF: £21.83.

5.45 (1m 14yd) 1, **Tiger Talk** (M Hills, 6-4 fav); 2, Balsox (2-1); 3, Badagara (100-30). 5 ran. 1½l, 2½l. B Hills. Tote: £3.20; £1.10, £2.50. DF: £1.90. CSF: £4.37.

Jackpot: *not won (pool of £18,846.65 carried forward to Southwell today).*

Placepot: £970.50. **Quadpot:** £85.60.

Leicester

Going: heavy

2.00 1, **Pips Song** (11-1); 2, Malia (7-1 jt-fav); 3, Ocker (8-1); 4, Compradore (9-1). Medmun 7-1 jt-fav. 20 ran. NR: Ramboid.

2.30 1, **Backcloth** (5-6 fav); 2, Turtle Valley (16-1); 3, Mischief (12-1). 8 ran. NR: Red May.

3.00 1, **Holt Discovery** (evens fav); 2, Turtle Surprise (10-1); 3, Vipee (33-1). 11 ran. NR: Cacophony, Norfolk Reed, Pretending.

3.30 1, **Homestead** (6-4 fav); 2, Cross Talk (20-1); 3, *My Legal Eagle* (8-1). 15 ran. NR: Girlie Set, Moonshift, Mutadarre, Mysterium.

4.00 1, **Birth of The Blues** (5-1 co-fav); 2, Pebble Moon (7-1); 3, Goodwood Jazz (5-1 co-fav). Wonderful Man 5-1 co-fav. 12 ran. NR: Ghazzi, Pisces Lad, Why Worry Now.

4.30 1, **Warningford** (9-2); 2, Wind Cheetah (11-1); 3, Tumbleweed Ridge (16-1). Grazia 11-4 fav. 7 ran. NR: Andreyev, Cretan Gift, Trans Island.

5.05 1, **Drakensberg** (16-1); 2, Amaretto Flame (16-1); 3, Keebaar (7-2). Evesham 15-8 fav. 9 ran. NR: Makarim, Mayo, Silver Robin, Thrhn.

5.35 1, **Zilarator** (14-1); 2, First Impression (7-2); 3, Aquatic King (33-1). Tawwag evens fav. 9 ran. NR: England's Rose, Follow That Dream, Seel.

Market Rasen

Going: soft, heavy in places

2.10 1, **Mill Orchid** (11-2); 2, Freckles (4-1); 3, Hetenes Hill (9-2). Round Robin 11-4 fav. 7 ran.

2.40 1, **Dragons Bay** (2-1 fav); 2, Blotoft (16-1); 3, *Pornic* (7-2). 9 ran. NR: Jills Joy, Viking Rod.

3.10 1, ***Anglesey Sea View*** *(6-1)*; 2, Leap In The Dark (10-1); 3, Kabsko (25-1). Fair And Fancy 11-4 jt-fav. 10 ran.

3.45 1, **Jazzman** (evens fav); 2, Keen To The Last (11-8); 3, College Don (25-1). 5 ran. NR: Ambrosia.

4.20 1, **Patras** (10-11 fav); 2, Gracie Grey (20-1); 3, Trojan Risk (5-1). 11 ran. NR: Manolito.

4.55 1, **Brambleberry** (5-2 fav); 2, Danbys Gorse (9-2); 3, Sister Rosza (8-1). 8 ran. NR: Non Vintage.

5.30 1, **Waterberg** (13-2); 2, Jurist (11-2); 3, Matzaluna (7-2). Soeur de Senlier 11-4 fav. 14 ran. NR: Qualitair Survivor.

6.00 1, **Pearly Prince** (8-1); 2, Peapay (20-1); 3, *Ace Gunner* (8-1). *Chaos Theory 2-1 fav.* 13 ran. NR: Carnair Crusader, Newryman.

Worcester

Going: good to soft

5.20 1, **Concubhair** (100-30 jt-fav); 2, Taan Ton (100-30 jt-fav); 3, Eko Deauville (12-1). 20 ran. NR: Hobart Junction, Lobster Cottage.

5.50 1, **Tree Creeper** (6-5 fav); 2, Harlequin *Chorus* (5-2); 3, *Chicodari* (3-1). *4 ran.* NR: Atours, Gentry.

6.20 1, **Act of Parliament** (25-1); 2, Cedar Square (10-3 fav); 3, Spring Double (5-1). 8 ran.

6.50 1, **Walking Tall** (12-1); 2, Not For Parrot (6-4 fav); 3, *Belladur* (7-2). *8 ran.* NR: Dance King, Serious, Silver Miro.

7.20 1, **Rocket Radar** (8-1); 2, Ardstown (7-4 fav); 3, Ive Called Time (4-1). 15 ran. NR: Club Caribbean, Menno Waltz.

7.50 1, ***Sea Tarth*** *(11-4 fav)*; 2, *Mancini* (7-1); 3, Quickswood (10-1). 14 ran. NR: Bad Bertrich, Ewar Bold, Indian Legend, Slamabal.

Sedgefield

Going: good to soft

5.40 1, ***Teme Valley*** *(6-1)*; 2, Jolly Minster (4-1); 3, Dead Aim (13-2). Accystan 11-4 fav. 12 ran. NR: Polo Venture, The Gambolier.

6.10 1, **Weaver George** (4-1); 2, Corston Joker (4-1); 3, Peace Lord (6-1). Pentlands Flyer 5-2 fav. 8 ran. NR: Mr Fudge.

6.40 1, **Jessetra** (16-1); 2, Young Tomo (5-2); 3, Rubon Prince (9-2). Peacemaker 2-1 fav. 8 ran. NR: Knight Templar.

7.10 1, **Mister Muddypaws** (7-2); 2, Spring Gale (9-2); 3, Gale Force (3-1 fav). 7 ran. NR: *Aly Daley, Better Times Ahead, Celtic Duke*, The Full Monty.

7.40 1, ***King's Hussar*** *(20-1)*; 2, Canadian Fantasy (7-1); 3, Into Battle (10-1). Tipping Tina 100-30 fav. 13 ran. NR: Jokers Charm, Tam O'Shanter.

8.10 1, **Rascally** (9-1); 2, Sousse (10-1); 3, *Wynyard Lady* (2-1 fav). *11 ran.*

Wolverhampton

Going: standard

7.00 1, **Heavenly Miss** (6-1); 2, Antonia's Double (8-1); 3, Scintillating Sound (25-1). *Trojan Girl 4-1 fav. 13 ran.*

7.30 1, **Over The Moon** (10-1); 2, John Bowdler Music (2-1); 3, Sir Walter (33-1). Be Warned 5-6 fav. 11 ran. NR: Hannibal Lad.

8.00 1, **Steamroller Stanly** (4-1); 2, Philosophic (8-1); 3, Noufari (12-1). Quezon City 13-8 fav. 7 ran.

8.40 1, **Majestic** (11-10 fav); 2, Epworth (50-1); 3, Star Fantasy (4-1). 10 ran.

9.25 1, **Sweet Magic** (7-4 fav); 2, Samwar (4-1); 3, Tuscan Dream (9-1). 10 ran.

9.50 1, **Storm Cat** (8-1); 2, Elite Hope (10-1); 3, The Woodcock (12-1). Present Chance 3-1 fav. *12 ran.*

☐ **Ripon was abandoned because of waterlogging.**

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NFL EUROPE: Saturday: Amsterdam Admirals 17 Frankfurt Galaxy 13, Scottish Claymores 48 Berlin Thunder 14. **Yesterday:** Barcelona Dragons 19 Rhein Fire 10

ATHLETICS

Track and field

RIO DE JANEIRO: IAAF grand prix: Men: 100m: C da Silva (Br) 10.29sec. **200m:** Da Silva (Br) 20.47sec. **800m:** K Kimwetich (Ken) 1min 46.36sec. **1,500m:** D Lalei (Ken) 3:39.29. **110m hurdles:** L Wade (US) 13.49. **400m hurdles:** S Matete (Zam) 48.97. **Discus:** A Washington (US) 64.57m. **Pole vault:** L Johnson (US) 5.60m. **Long jump:** J Beckford (Jam) 8.40m. **Women: 100m:** C Sturrup (Bah) 11.32sec. **200m:** M Fraser (Jam) 23.13. **400m hurdles:** A Blackett (Bar) 55.46sec. **800m:** T Paulino (Moz) 2:01.11. **Shot:** T Tunks (US) 18.48m. **Triple jump:** T Marinova (Bul) 14.50m.
SOUTHERN WOMEN'S LEAGUE: First division: Ashford: Pole vault: T Bloomfield (Guildford and Godalming) 3.40m. **Bedford: 200m:** E Whitter (Herne Hill) 24.29. **3,000m:** S McGeorge (Brighton and Hove) 9:28.72. **100m hurdles:** L Buxton (Brighton and Hove) 14.42. **Shot:** C Smithson (Brighton and Hove) 12.14m. **Discus:** Smithson 44.41m. **Kingston: High jump:** 1equal, J Bennett (Epsom and Ewell) and D Bennett (Epsom and Ewell) both 1.75m. **Pole Vault:** B Ridgley (Team Solent) 3.45m. **Long jump:** Bennett 5.83m. **Shot:** C Bennett (Epsom and Ewell) 14.07m. **Hammer:** C Bennett 46.60m. **Javelin:** K Morrison (Medway) 53.90m. **Sutton: 100m hurdles:** S Porter (Sutton) 14.1. **400m hurdles:** C Wise (Aldershot, Farnham and District) 61.6. **Pole Vault:** N Bradshaw (Aldershot, Farnham and District) 3.20m. **Long jump:** G Holt (Aldershot, Farnham and District) 5.84m. **Triple jump:** A Thorpe (Puma TVH) 12.61m. **Shot:** V Foster (Aldershot, Farnham and District) 14.63m. **Discus:** S Drew (Sutton) 56.40m (League record). **Javelin:** K Amos (Thurrock) 45.86m. **Ware: 100m hurdles:** C Milborrow (Horsham Blue Star) 14.2. **Hammer:** S Harrison (Shaftesbury Barnet) 48.38m. **Leading standings:** 1, Ashford 222; 2, Aldershot, Farnham and District (holders) 215.5; 3, Windsor, Slough and Eton 200; 4, Shaftesbury Barnet 197; 5, Horsham Blue Star 186.5; 6, Team Solent 183.5.

Road running

BALMORAL CASTLE: Compaq Races: Men: 4km: 1, R Silva (Por) 10min 55sec; 2, J Mayock (Cannock and Stafford) 11:01; 3, M Pancorbo (Spain) 11:03; 4, A Whiteman (GEC Avionics) 11:04; 5, M Openshaw (Chester-le-Street) 11:05; 6, A Garcia (Sp) 11:05. **5 miles:** 1, P Tergat (Ken) 22:27; 2, K Skah (Mor) 22:28; 3, T Nyariki (Ken) 22:32; 4, J Kimutai (Ken) 22:45; 5, R Denmark (Basildon) 22:53; 6, K Cullen (Chelmsford) 23:07. **10km:** 1, T Nyariki (Ken) 28min 25sec; 2, J Kimutai (Ken) 28:43; 3, P Guerra (Por) 28:51; 4, J Kimutai (Ken) 29:21; 5, B Toledo (Sp) 29:45; 6, P Whitehead (Skyrac) 29:47. **Women: 5 miles:** 1, P Radcliffe (Bedford) 24:47 (world record); 2, J Maranga (Ken) 25:51; 3, A Sandell (Fin) 26:16; 4, H Yelling (Hounslow) 26:42; 5, F Lothian (Fife) 26:48; 6, S Young (Salford) 26:49. **10km:** 1, T Loroupe (Ken) 32:26; 2, R Mikitenko (Ger) 32:48; 3, C Butler (Can) 33:01; 4, L Nplagal (Ken) 33:10; 5, B Dagne (Woodford Green and Essex Ladies) 33:32; 6, H Harning (City of Glasgow) 33:48. **Compaq corporate challenge 10 miles:** 1, K Smith (Standard Life) 53.48; 2, A Scott (Standard Life) 55:28; 3, C Haskett (NOSWA) 56:48; 4, S Campbell (George Henot) 58.19; 5, T Macintyre (Hydro Electric) 58:26; 6, P Jones (Marathon Oil) 58:34.
HAMBURG MARATHON: Men: 1, D Ngetich (Ken) 2hr 10min 5sec; 2, C Eich (Ger) 2:10:22; 3, S Obeno (Ken) 2:10:41; 4, E Chebet (Ken) 2:10:52; 5, J Kiprono (Ken) 2:11:45; 6, M Buchleitner (Austria) 2:12:43. **Women:** 1, K Dörre-Heinig (Ger) 2hr 24min 35sec; 2, M Vaith (Ger) 2:31:16; 3, A Laws (Ger) 2:33:05; 4, J Kiplimo (Ken) 2:33:40; 5, S Trampuz (It) 2:33:50; 6, S Renz (Ger) 2:34:26.

Road walking

SHEFFIELD: Inter-Counties championships: Senior men (10km): 1, M Bell (West of Scotland) 41min 38sec; 2, M Young (Leicestershire) 46.49; 3, B Adams (Leicestershire) 48.12; 4, T Watt (Sussex) 49.10; 5, L Morten (Yorkshire) 49.41; 6, G Jackson (Warwickshire) 49.41. **Senior women** (5km): 1, V Lupton (Yorkshire) 23.52; 2, L Crump (Yorkshire) 24.51; 3, C Watson (Kent) 29.26. **Junior men** (10km): 1, N Adams (Yorkshire) 50.27; 2, N Whorlow (Kent) 51.01; 3, P Bilson (Yorkshire) 1:08.06. **Junior women** (5km): 1, S Bennett (Warwickshire) 25.10; 2, K Ford (Yorkshire) 25.32; 3, S Woodcock (Yorkshire) 26.52. **Men under-17** (10km): 1, L Finch (Leicester) 46.53; 2, L Hibberd (Leicester) 57.45. **Women under-17** (5km): 1, N Phillips (Kent) 25.35; 2, K Mann (Warwickshire) 27.13; 3, L Fryer (Kent) 27.24. **Boys under-15** (2km): 1, L Finch (Leicestershire) 9.39; 2, P Graham (Suffolk) 10.29; 3, S Wharlow (Kent) 10.36. **Girls under-15** (2km): 1, S Hales (Sussex) 10.04; 2, N Geens (Warwickshire) 10.20; 3, N Fox (Kent) 10.30. **Boys under-13** (2km): 1, B Craig (Suffolk) 11.38; 2equal, R Harris (Kent) and P Warren (Sussex) both 11.51. **Girls under-13** (2km): 1, J Hobson (Sussex) 11.14; 2, C Tomlin (Kent) 11.48; 3, L Oldale (Yorkshire) 11.57. **Overall teams:** 1, Yorkshire 635; 2, Warwickshire 495; 3, Kent 452.

BOWLS

HOME COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIPS (at Glebelands): **Finals: League:** Middx 141 Kent 138. **Singles:** D Mason (Kent) bt G Standley (Hants) 21-16. **Fours:** Kent 7 Hants 6.
WELLINGBOROUGH: EBPA singles championship: Quarter-finals: S Thomas (Leicester) bt G Harlow (City of Ely) 7-5, 0-7, 7-5. M Sharpe (Kingsthorpe) bt A E Thomson (Cyphers) 7-6, 7-2. G Smith (Cyphers) bt E Henry (Stanley) 7-2, 7-3. D Holt (Blackpool Borough) bt D Lockhart (Blackpool Borough) 7-3, 6-7, 7-3. **Semi-finals:** Sharpe bt Thomas 7-5, 7-1. Holt bt Smith 7-4, 7-2. **Final:** Holt bt Sharpe 7-2, 7-4.
NEWARK: EBF national indoor championships: Men: Singles: Semi-finals: B Brett (Hunts) bt D Adams (Notts) 21-19; A Lawton (Durham) bt P Hogg (Cleveland) 21-4. **Final:** Brett bt Lawton 21-12. **Pairs: Semi-finals:** P Cranidge and J Gray (Humbs) bt T Hammond and B Young (Cleveland) 18-15; J Baker and T Bates (Norfolk) bt E Holmes and H Blacklock (Northumb) 19-9. **Final:** Baker and Bates bt Cranidge and Gray 18-12. **Rinks: Semi-finals:** Durham (D Noble) bt Notts (M Bell) 21-20; North Cambs (J Hines) bt Northants (T Collins) 20-15. **Final:** Durham bt North Cambs 23-11. **Women: Singles: Semi-finals:** S Waudby (Humbs) bt M Hodgkin (Hunts) 21-15. C Smith (Lincs) bt M Hannant (Norfolk) 21-17. **Final:** Waudby bt Smith 21-17. **Pairs: Semi-finals:** B Jackson and P Marples (Derbyshire) bt H Rix and M Emmert (Norfolk) 23-13. J Wright and B Heath (Lincs) bt R Bowers and B Jempson (Humbs) 12-11. **Final:** Wright and Heath bt Jackson and Marples 18-15. **Rinks: Semi-finals:** Northants (J Bedford) bt Derby (P Marples) 21-18; Hunts (M Barlow) bt Cleveland (M Carter) 26-11. **Final:** Hunts bt Northants 18-11. **Mixed: Pairs: Semi-finals:** P Reynolds and N Eagle (Northants) bt J and A Robins (Cleveland) 24-1. S Lee and I Wones (Norfolk) bt S Randall and D Noble (Durham) 18-14. **Final:** Lee and Wones bt Reynolds and Eagle 19-10.

BOXING

PLANET ICE, Peterborough: British super-bantamweight championship: D Docherty (Glasgow) bt P Mullings (Harrow) pts. **Super-middleweight:** D Starie (Ipswich) bt Z Hetagorov (Ukr) rsc 1st.
WASHINGTON: IBF super-flyweight championship: M Johnson (US) bt R Vorapin (Thai) pts. **WBC middleweight championship:** K Holmes (US) bt H Cherifi (Fr) rsc 7th. **WBA super-lightweight championship:** S Mitchell (US) bt R Green (US) pts.

GOLF

GREENSBORO, North Carolina: Greater Greensboro Classic: Leaders after three rounds (United States unless stated): **195:** J Parnevik (Swe) 65, 63, 67. **198:** J Furyk 67, 63, 68. **202:** D Hart 66, 65, 71. **205:** J Maggert 68, 62, 75. **206:** T Lehman 69, 68, 69. **207:** S Lowery 66, 68, 73. **208:** N Lancaster 69, 70, 69; K Triplett 69, 68, 71; T Dodds (Namibia) 71, 65, 72.
STOCKBRIDGE, Georgia: Chick-Fil-A championship: Leaders after two rounds (United States unless stated): **134:** B Mucha 72, 62; Mi Hyun Kim (S Kor) 69, 65; R Hetherington (Aus) 67, 67; L Spalding 66, 68; M Hjorth (Swe) 65, 69. **135:** S Steinhauer 68, 67; L Kane (Can) 67, 68. **136:** D Killeen 70, 66; C Figg-Currier 69, 67. **137:** J Bartholomew 74, 63; K Webb (Aus) 70, 67; J Inkster 69, 68; C Flom 69, 68. **Other scores: 138:** Se Ri Pak (S Kor) 69, 69. **139:** H Dobson (GB) 68, 71. **140:** J Morley (GB) 72, 68. **142:** T Johnson (GB) 70, 72.

HOCKEY

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL MATCHES (in Vienna): Austria 0 Scotland 3, Austria 1 Scotland 1, Austria 3 Scotland 2.
EHA WOMEN'S CUP: Semi-finals (at Milton Keynes): Slough 4 Chelmsford Highway 0, Fyffes Leicester 1 Olton Terraquest 0.
WOMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE MATCH (in Dublin): Irish Universities 0 British Universities 1.
WELSH CUP: Men: Final: Whitchurch 5 UC Swansea 2. **Women: Semi-finals:** Swansea 10 UWIC 1, Penarth 1 Colwyn Bay 2 (aet). **Final:** Swansea 3 Colwyn Bay 0.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Stanley Cup play-offs: Eastern Conference: Friday: Ottawa 2 Buffalo 3 (2 OT; Buffalo lead best-of-seven series 2-0). **Saturday:** New Jersey 1 Pittsburgh 4 (series tied 1-1); Carolina 3 Boston 2 (OT; series tied 1-1); Toronto 2 Philadelphia 1 (series tied 1-1). **Western Conference: Friday:** Detroit 5 Anaheim 1 (Detroit lead series 2-0); Dallas 3 Edmonton 2 (Dallas lead series 2-0). **Saturday:** Phoenix 4 St Louis 3 (OT, series tied 1-1), San Jose 1 Colorado 3 (Colorado lead series 1-0).

JUDO

BIRMINGHAM: British Open championships: Finals: Men: Heavyweight: D Kulmer (Ger) bt D Cordozo (Ven) knockdown and penalty point. **Light-heavyweight:** Sung Keun Park (S Kor) bt K Davis (GB) throw. **Middleweight:** Sung-Yeun Yoo (S Kor) bt S Helbing (Ger) throw. **Light-middleweight:** D Kingston (GB) bt Z Tabaczník (Neth) throw. **Women: Lightweight:** H Kai (Japan) bt J Brien (GB) knockdown. **Featherweight:** G Singleton (GB) bt S Pallancher (Fr) knockdown. **Bantamweight:** V l'Hermitte (Fr) bt N Lepage (Fr) knockdown.

MOTORCYCLING

MOTEGI: Grand Prix of Japan: 500cc: 1, K Roberts (US, Suzuki) 51min 54.368sec; 2, M Doohan (Aus, Honda) 51:58.227; 3, N Abe (Japan, Yamaha) 52:16.144; 4, A Crivillé (Sp, Honda) 52:17.996; 5, S Gibernau (Sp, Honda) 52:18.370; 6, C Checa (Sp, Yamaha) 52:31.866. **250cc:** 1, S Nakano (Japan, Yamaha) 48:52.950; 2, T Ukawa (Japan, Honda) 48:55.646; 3, L Capirossi (It, Honda) 49:02.210. **125cc:** 1, M Azuma (Japan, Honda) 46:17.752; 2, H Nakajoh (Japan, Honda) 46:39.655; 3, E Alzamora (Sp, Honda) 46:50.275.
OULTON PARK: British superbike championship: Third round: 1, T Bayliss (Aus, INS Ducati) 23min 37.487sec; 2, S Emmett (GB, Red Bull Ducati) 23:39.871; 3, C Walker (GB, Kawasaki) 23:39.945. **Fourth round:** 1, Bayliss 23:32.831; 2, J Haydon (GB, Clarion Suzuki) 23:33.563; 3, J Reynolds (GB, Red Bull Ducati) 23:33.888. **Championship positions:** 1, Bayliss 113; 2, Walker 106; 3, Haydon 101. **British Supersport 600 championship: Third round:** 1, J Crawford (GB, Clarion Suzuki) 19:50.031; 2, J Moodie (GB, Castrol Honda) 19:50.145; 3, P Brown (GB, D and E Honda) 19:50.376. **Championship positions:** 1, Crawford 66; 2, S Plater (Honda) 52; 3, Moodie 44. **British 125cc championship: Third round:** 1, D Barton (GB, Honda) 29min 6.123sec; 2, S Patrickson (GB, Honda) 29:06.217; 3, P Jennings (GB, Honda) 29:06.362. **Championship positions:** 1, Jennings 66; 2, Barton 57; 3, Patrickson 53. **British 250cc championship: Third round:** 1, J McGuinness (GB, Vimto Honda) 26:12.228; 2, S Norval (SA, Honda) 26:14.604; 3, J Robinson (GB, Honda) 26:14.871. **Championship positions:** 1, McGuinness 65; 2, Robinson 57; 3, Norval 45.

MOTOR RALLYING

CUMBRIA: Pirelli International rally: Leading final standings: 1, T Laukkanen (Fin, Renault Megane) 2hr 2min 28.7sec; 2, T Gardemeister (Fin, SEAT Ibiza) at 1min 24.1sec; 3, M Higgins (IoM, Volkswagen Golf) 1:24.7; 4, D Higgins (IoM, Subaru Impreza) 1:31.0; 5, D Buckley (Scot, Mitsubishi Lancer) 2:47.2. **Leading championship positions:** 1, Laukkanen 60pts; 2, M Higgins 50; 3, Kytolehto 42. **Leading constructors:** 1, Renault 32; 2, Volkswagen 21; 3, Vauxhall 16.

REAL TENNIS

HAMPTON COURT: Guy Salmon women's world championship: Final: P Lumley (GB) bt S Haswell (GB) 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB Super League

Gateshead 38 Salford 14
Gateshead: Tries: Collins 2, Daylight, Maher, Robinson, Sammut, Walters. **Goals:** Herron 5. **Salford: Tries:** Hayes, Martin, Svabic. **Goal:** Blakeley. **Att:** 1,780.

Huddersfield 20 Leeds 42
Huddersfield: Tries: Lenihan 3, Sturm. **Goals:** Goulding 2. **Leeds: Tries:** Rivett 2, Cummins, Godden, Morley, Powell, Sheridan, St Hilaire. **Goals:** Cummins 3, Harris 2. **Att:** 5,346.

Hull 10 St Helens 30
Hull: Tries: R Nolan 2. **Goal:** Prescott. **St Helens: Tries:** Sullivan 2, Cunningham, Long, Perelini. **Goals:** Long 5. **Att:** 5,879.

London 16 Warrington 30
London: Tries: Offiah, Tollett, Toshack. **Goals:** Smyth 2, Tollett. **Warrington: Tries:** Roach 2, Forster, Hunte, Kohe-Love, Penny. **Goals:** Briers 3. **Att:** 2,378.

Wigan 8 Castleford 24
Wigan: Try: Reber. **Goals:** Farrell 2. **Castleford: Tries:** Davis, Harland, Vowles, Wells. **Goals:** Orr 3, Tonks. **Att:** 8,856.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Helens	7	7	0	0	239	118	14
Bradford	7	6	0	1	125	113	12
Castleford	7	5	0	2	143	95	10
Warrington	7	5	0	2	138	132	10
Wigan	7	4	0	3	188	107	8
Leeds	7	4	0	3	168	130	8
Gateshead	7	4	0	3	155	129	8
Halifax	7	3	0	4	106	108	6
* Sheffield	6	3	0	3	133	148	6
London	7	3	0	4	118	190	6
* Wakefield	6	2	0	4	116	132	4
Huddersfld	7	2	0	5	135	177	4
Salford	7	0	0	7	103	190	0
Hull	7	0	0	7	80	179	0

* Does not include last night's match

Northern Ford Premiership

Batley 32 Barrow 19
Batley: Tries: Lingard 2, Simpson 2, McWilliams, Miers. **Goals:** Price 4. **Barrow: Tries:** Holt, Manihera, McAllister. **Goals:** Holt 3. **Dropped goal:** Holt. **Att:** 468.

Doncaster 30 Whitehaven 40
Doncaster: Tries: Miller 2, Carter, C Moore, Watene. **Goals:** Maher 3, Summerill 2. **Whitehaven: Tries:** Charlton 2, Kitchin 2, Fraser, Lester, Wilson. **Goals:** Kitchin 6. **Att:** 441.

Hull KR 23 Featherstone 12
Hull KR: Tries: Kitching 2, Gene. **Goals:** Gray 5. **Dropped goal:** Donohue. **Featherstone: Tries:** Chapman, Simonds. **Goals:** Dickens 2. **Att:** 2,503.

Hunslet 33 Rochdale 12
Hunslet: Tries: Filipo 2, Higgins, Ross, Tawhai. **Goals:** Fletcher 6. **Dropped goal:** Fletcher. **Rochdale: Tries:** Aston, Cooper. **Goals:** Fox 2. **Att:** 1,184.

Keighley 40 Lancashire Lynx 14
Keighley: Tries: Foster 5, Antonik, Campbell. **Goals:** Dixon 4, Larder, Tyrer. **Lancashire Lynx: Tries:** Gentas, Parsley, Soloman. **Goal:** D Jones. **Att:** 1,695.

Oldham 14 York 43
Oldham: Tries: Brown, Farrell, Meade. **Goal:** Wood. **York: Tries:** Benn 2, Goddard 2, McKenzie, Ramsden, Strange. **Goals:** Benn 7. **Dropped goal:** Precious. **Att:** 1,125.

Swinton 22 Leigh 34
Swinton: Tries: Ashcroft, Taylor, M Welsby. **Goals:** Gartland 5. **Leigh: Tries:** Norman 2, Bowker, Cruckshank, K Purtill. **Goals:** Wingfield 7. **Att:** 1,300.

Workington 30 Widnes 24
Workington: Tries: Roden 2, Jenkins, Wallace. **Goals:** Close 7. **Widnes: Tries:** Hewitt 2, Garcia, D Myler. **Goals:** Hewitt 4. **Att:** 1,105.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hull KR	11	9	1	1	310	129	19
Leigh	11	9	0	2	310	228	18
Dewsbury	10	8	0	2	293	180	16
York	11	7	1	3	229	163	15
Hunslet	11	7	0	4	277	151	14
Featherstone	10	7	0	3	239	174	14
Widnes	11	7	0	4	255	194	14
Barrow	11	5	0	6	280	266	10
Keighley	10	5	0	5	220	208	10
Batley	11	4	1	6	200	177	9
Workington	10	4	1	5	196	259	9
Bramley	10	4	0	6	142	157	8
Whitehaven	11	4	0	7	215	250	8
Rochdale	10	3	0	7	189	226	6
Swinton	11	3	0	8	201	264	6
Lancashire L	10	3	0	7	156	316	6
Oldham	9	2	1	6	131	240	5
Doncaster	12	1	1	10	183	344	3

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Saturday: Melbourne 52 South Sydney 6; Manly 12 Parramatta 6, Penrith 20 North Sydney 18. **Yesterday:** Balmain 28 Western Suburbs 16; Canberra 21 Newcastle 21, Cronulla Sharks 18 St George-Illawarra 16; North Queensland 20 Brisbane 20.

SAILING

CLIPPER ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE: Leg 4b (Singapore to Seychelles; with miles to finish): 1, Serica (R Dean) 2,659; 2, Mermerus (B Sollars) 2,680; 3, Ariel (A Thomson) 2,685; 4, Chrysolite (T Hedges) 2,690; 5, Thermopylae (M Tod) 2,692; 6, Antiope (K Harris) 2,698; 7, Taeping (N Fleming) 2,701.

SCHOOLS SPORT

CRICKET: Brentwood 181-5, * Bishop's Stortford Coll 111. * Brighton 229-7 King Edward's, Southampton 79. * Dulwich 205-4 dec (V H Kumar 104 not out) Whitgift 74; * KCS Wimbledon 241-7 dec Epsom Coll 177. * Merchant Taylors' Northwood 187-8 dec St Albans 109-8. * RGS Guildford 152 Portsmouth GS 117-7. Seaford 67 * Hurstpierpoint 68-1; * St Edmunds, Ware 117-9 dec Aldenham 119-5. Eltham 160-5 dec Bancroft 132-7. Lord Wandsworth 186-4 dec Christ's Hospital 70-7. Prior Park Coll 142 Bryanston 146-8. * denotes home team

SHOOTING

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa: World team championship: Palma Trophy (teams of 16, 15 shots twice at 700m, 800m and 900m, ex 14,400): 1, South Africa 14,081 599pts; 2, Britain 14,073 598; 3, New Zealand 14,044 588; 4, Australia 14,019 601; 5, United States 13,958 557; 6, Canada 13,746 483.

SNOOKER

THE CRUCIBLE, Sheffield: Embassy world championship: Second round: J Parrott (Eng) bt C Small (Scot) 13-12; J Higgins (Scot) bt M King (Eng) 13-4; K Doherty (Ire) bt N Bond (Eng) 13-11; M Stevens (Wales) bt A Drago (Malta) 13-8. **Latest positions:** R O'Sullivan (Eng) leads J Perry (Eng) 9-7; M Williams (Wales) level with N Walker (Eng) 4-4; S Lee (Eng) leads A McManus (Scot) 6-2.

SQUASH

MADEIRA: Galomar international match: Final: England 4 Germany 1.

TENNIS

MONTE CARLO OPEN: Singles: Semi-finals: G Kuerten (Br) bt F Mantilla (Sp) 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. M Rios (Chile) bt J Golmard (Fr) 6-4, 3-6, 6-2. **Final:** Kuerten bt Rios 6-4, 2-1, ret. **Doubles: Final:** O Delaitre (Fr) and T Henman (GB) bt J Novak and D Rikl (Cz) 6-2, 6-3.
LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida: Clay court championships: Quarter-finals: M Mirnyi (Bela) bt J Courier (US) 6-3, 6-7, 6-4. C Ruud (Nor) bt H Gumy (Arg) 7-6, 6-4. M Norman (Swe) bt G Trifu (Rom) 7-5, 6-2. G Canas (Arg) bt A Martin (Sp) 6-4, 7-6. **Semi-finals:** Canas bt Ruud 5-2, ret. Norman bt Mirnyi 6-2, 6-1.
CAIRO OPEN: Semi-finals: I Spirlea (Rom) bt M Drake (Can) 6-3, 6-0; A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) bt E Gagliardi (Switz) 7-5, 6-0. **Final:** Sánchez Vicario bt Spirlea 6-1, 6-0.
FEDERATION CUP: World group two: Germany 3 Japan 2 (in Hamburg).

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Nationwide Conference
Hednesford v Kingstonian (7.45)
Rushden & D v Forest Green (7.45)

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone v Boston. **Southern division:** Chelmsford v St Leonards.
RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Carshalton v St Albans, Dagenham and Redbridge v Chesham (7.45). **First division:** Romford v Hitchin. **Second division:** Banstead v Barking.
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Brighton v Crystal Palace (at Worthing, 7.0), Chelsea v Peterborough (7.0), Ipswich v Gillingham (7.0), Northampton v Southampton (7.0); Reading v Millwall, Wycombe v Arsenal (7.0).
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Aston Villa v Liverpool (7.0), Blackburn v Stoke (7.0), Everton v Birmingham (7.0), Leicester v Nottingham Forest (7.0); Sunderland v Preston (7.0). **First division:** Wolverhampton v Barnsley (7.0). **Second division:** Newcastle v Shrewsbury (7.0), Sheffield Utd v York (7.0), Stockport v Blackpool (7.0). **Third division:** Carlisle v Rochdale (2.0).
MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Islington v Barkingside. **Challenge Trophy: Semi-final replay:** Waltham Abbey v Potters Bar.
NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division: Clitheroe v Nantwich.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Northern Ford Premiership
Bramley v Dewsbury (7.30)

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.45 unless stated

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Northern Ireland v Canada (at Windsor Park, 8.0).
UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Germany v Scotland (at Meppen, 7.15), Hungary v England (at Serencvarosi Stadium, 5.0). Ireland v Sweden (7.30).
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Crewe v Bristol City; Port Vale v Watford. **Second division:** Bristol Rovers v Millwall, Colchester v Bournemouth; Luton v Chesterfield; Macclesfield v Stoke; Notts County v Wycombe; Wigan v Lincoln; York v Blackpool (3.0). **Third division:** Darlington v Brentford, Hartlepool v Leyton Orient (7.30); Mansfield v Exeter; Rochdale v Cambridge Utd, Rotherham v Barnet; Halifax v Scunthorpe.
NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Northwich v Cheltenham; Yeovil v Morecambe.
SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Clydebank v Ayr (7.30).

RUGBY UNION

WELSH LEAGUE: Premier division play-offs: Group A: Pontypridd v Llanelli (7.0). **First division:** Maesteg v Rumney (7.0).

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying group two: Georgia v Norway (7.0). Latvia v Albania (5.0). **Qualifying group six:** Austria v San Marino (6.30).
INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Germany v Scotland (at Bremen, 7.30), Hungary v England (at Nep Stadium, 7.15). Ireland v Sweden (at Lansdowne Road, 7.30).
NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Forest Green v Dover (7.45), Kingstonian v Southport (7.45).

CRICKET

PPP COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (four days): **Chester-le-Street:** Durham v Hampshire. **Chelmsford:** Essex v Warwickshire. **Cardiff:** Glamorgan v Sussex. **Bristol:** Gloucestershire v Middlesex. **Canterbury:** Kent v Derbyshire. **Leicester:** Leicestershire v Lancashire. **Northampton:** Northamptonshire v Surrey. **Trent Bridge:** Nottinghamshire v Worcestershire.

RUGBY UNION

WELSH LEAGUE: Premier division play-offs: Group A: Neath v Ebbw Vale (7.0). **Group B:** Aberavon v Bridgend (7.0), Newport v Caerphilly (7.0). **First division:** UWIC v Tondu (7.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP: Rochdale v York (7.30).

THURSDAY

FOOTBALL

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: Northampton v Wigan (7.45). **NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE:** Leek v Yeovil (7.45).

CRICKET

PPP COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (four days): **Taunton:** Somerset v Yorkshire.

FRIDAY

FOOTBALL

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Bolton v Wolverhampton (7.45).

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Charlton v Blackburn, Chelsea v Everton, Coventry v Wimbledon, Liverpool v Tottenham, Manchester Utd v Aston Villa, Newcastle v Middlesbrough, Nottingham Forest v Sheffield Wednesday, Southampton v Leicester, West Ham v Leeds.
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Barnsley v Watford, Bradford v Oxford Utd, Crewe v Portsmouth, Crystal Palace v Huddersfield, Grimsby v Tranmere, Norwich v Swindon, Port Vale v Queens Park Rangers, Sheffield Utd v Bristol City, Stockport v Sunderland, West Bromwich v Bury. **Second division:** Bristol Rovers v Manchester City (6.0), Burnley v Fulham; Chesterfield v Northampton; Colchester v Lincoln, Gillingham v Stoke, Luton v Macclesfield, Preston v Notts County; Reading v Millwall; Walsall v Oldham, Wrexham v Wigan, Wycombe v Blackpool, York v Bournemouth. **Third division:** Barnet v Southend; Brentford v Exeter; Cardiff v Scunthorpe; Darlington v Chester, Halifax v Scarborough, Hartlepool v Carlisle; Hull v Torquay; Peterborough v Leyton Orient, Plymouth v Cambridge Utd, Rochdale v Swansea; Rotherham v Brighton, Shrewsbury v Mansfield.
NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Cheltenham v Welling, Doncaster v Kingstonian, Dover v Telford, Forest Green v Southport, Hednesford v Hayes, Kidderminster v Barrow; Leek v Northwich, Morecambe v Farnborough, Rushden and Diamonds v Kettering, Woking v Hereford; Yeovil v Stevenage.
BANK OF SCOTLAND SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Aberdeen v St Johnstone; Dundee Utd v Dundee, Hearts v Dunfermline, Kilmarnock v Motherwell.
SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Airdrie v Hamilton, Falkirk v Clydebank; Greenock Morton v Ayr; Raith v St Mirren, Stranraer v Hibernian. **Second division:** Alloa v East Fife; Arbroath v Queen of South, Clyde v Stirling, Livingston v Inverness CT, Partick v Forfar. **Third division:** Berwick v Montrose; Brechin v East Stirling; Cowdenbeath v Stenhousemuir; Dumbarton v Queen's Park; Ross County v Albion.

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: Gloucester v Sale, London Irish v Saracens, Northampton v Bath. **Second division:** Exeter v Orrell, Fylde v Blackheath, Moseley v Coventry, Rugby v London Welsh, Wakefield v Leeds, Waterloo v Bristol, Worcester v Rotherham.
WELSH LEAGUE: Premier division play-offs: Group A: Llanelli v Neath (2.30), Pontypridd v Ebbw Vale (2.30). **Group B:** Caerphilly v Aberavon (2.30), Newport v Bridgend (2.30). **First division:** Abertillery v Dunvant (2.30), Bonymaen v Blackwood (2.30), Cross Keys v Rumney (2.30), Merthyr v Llandovery (2.30), Newbridge v Treorchy (2.30), Tondu v Pontypool (2.30), Tredegar v Maesteg (2.30). UWIC v South Wales Police (2.30).
AIB LEAGUE: Second division: Dungannon v Wanderers (2.30); Old Crescent v Ballynahinch (2.30). Skerries v Portadown (2.30).

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Final: Leeds v London (at Wembley, 2.45).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser play-off championship (at Wembley Arena) **Semi-finals:** London Towers v Sheffield Sharks (6.45); Manchester Giants v Thames Valley Tigers (8.45).
BOXING: Crystal Palace Sports Centre: WBO light-middleweight championship: H Simon (Namibia, holder) v K Lueshing (Beckenham).

SUNDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Arsenal v Derby (4.0).
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Birmingham v Ipswich (1.0).
BANK OF SCOTLAND SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Celtic v Rangers (6.05).

RUGBY UNION

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: Newcastle v Leicester (3.0). Wasps v London Scottish (3.0). West Hartlepool v Bedford (3.0).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser play-off championship: Third-place play-off (4.0). **Final** (6.30).

CYCLING

Road races

MAASTRICHT, The Netherlands: Amstel Gold World Cup race (255km): 1, M Boogerd (Neth) 6hr 37.23sec; 2, L Armstrong (US) at same time; 3, G Missaglia (It) 6sec; 4, M den Bakker (Neth); 5, L Roux (Fr) both same time; 6, L van Bon (Neth) 46. **World Cup positions** (after five races): 1, F Vandenbroucke (Bel) 199pts; 2, Boogerd 170; 3, A Tsmil (Bel) 168; 4, P van Petegem (Bel) 135; 5, Z Spruch (Pol) 124.
EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE CLASSIC (BCF Premier Calendar, Beverley) **First stage** (3.3 mile TT): 1, C Walker (Linda McCartney Foods RT) 6min 19.0sec; 2, R Downing (McCartney) 6.22.0; 3, J Clay (McCartney) 6.25.0. **Second stage** (70 miles): 1, H Pritchard (Team Men's Health) 2 33.47; 2, M Rogers (Amore e Vita); 3, C Lillywhite (McCartney) both at same time. **Third stage** (80 miles): 1, G Butler (Team Men's Health) 3 13.20; 2, W Randle (Pro Vision) at 50sec; 3, J Ramsbottom (Harrods RT) same time. **Final overall positions:** 1, Butler 5:54 03; 2, Ramsbottom at 48sec; 3, Randle 56.
CHESHIRE CLASSIC (BCF-Reynolds women's national series, Great Budworth, 40 miles): 1, T Coltman (Leicestershire RC) 1:45.20; 2, M Sears (Letchworth Velo) at same time; 3, J Gretton (VC Nottingham) 3.48.
TWICKENHAM CC (BCF national under-22 series, Oakley, Oxfordshire, 140km): 1, S Joseph (Gore Bike Wear) 3 39 00; 2, N Swithenbank (SG Bollington); 3, R Sharman (East Midlands Division) both at same time.

Time trials

RTTC CIRCUIT SERIES (first round, Stoke-by-Nayland, Suffolk, 37 miles): 1, P Smith (Border City Wheelers) 1:29.26; 2, G Baker (Anglia Sport) 1:31.07; 3, M Hutchinson (Cambridge University CC) 1:31.27. **Women** (25 miles): M Sears (Letchworth Velo) 1.05.38.
TOOTING BC (Dorking, 42 miles): 1, P Main (Redhill CC) 1.42.25 (event record); 2, P Anderson (CC Woking) 1:46.28; 3, R Payn (34 Nomads CC) 1.46.37. **Team:** Redhill CC 5:21.17.
BEACON RCC (Great Witley, Worcestershire, 39.5 miles): 1, S Dangerfield (Wolverhampton Wheelers) 1:33.48 (course record); 2, D Willetts (Birchfield CC) 1:39.29; 3, W Moore (Leo RC) 1.40:35. **Team:** Beacon RCC 5.42.33.
TEESDALE CRC (Barnard Castle, 38.5 miles): 1, J Wainman (Peter Read Racing) 1.46.56; 2, S Fullerton (Richmond and Darlington CC) 1.47.37; 3, R Noble (Derwentside CC) 1.48.13. **Team:** Clifton CC 5.51.38.
LAKELAND LAND ROVER CONISTON GRAND PRIX (Torver, 20 miles): 1, G Waddington (Pendle Forest CC) 52:10; 2, D Parkinson (Cleveleys RC) 52.14; 3, J Boothman (Pendle Forest CC) 53.16. **Team:** Cleveleys RC 2.42.21.
LANCASHIRE RC (Levens, Cumbria, 10 miles): 1, J Evans (Kent Valley RC) 20:58 (event record); 2, C Miller (Cleveleys RC) 20.59; 3, A Gales (Team Lusso) 21.00. **Team:** Cleveleys RC 1:04.29.
NORTHAMPTON AND DISTRICT CA (Cranford, 10 miles): 1, S Barker (Team Chiltern) 21.00; 2, R Berry (RAF CC) 21.04; 3, A Hill (RAF CC) 21.26. **Team:** Kettering Amateur CC 1:08.44.

LEE BESFORD



Birte Siemens, of Germany, finds the close attentions of Julie Baker, competing on home soil, overpowering in the British Open judo championships in Birmingham yesterday

CRICKET

PPP county championship

Hampshire v Kent

SOUTHAMPTON (final day of four): Hampshire (9pts) drew with Kent (8)

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings 252 (W S Kendall 93, M J McCague 4 for 65)

KENT: First Innings

T R Ward b Morris	10
R W T Key b McLean	2
D P Fulton c sub b Renshaw	41
M M Patel lbw b Morris	0
A P Wells lbw b Renshaw	33
A Symonds lbw b Stephenson	4
M J Walker not out	10
†S A Marsh lbw b Stephenson	6
*M V Fleming not out	16
Extras (b 1, lb 4, w 6, nb 2)	13
Total (7 wkts dec)	**135**

D W Headley and M J McCague did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-14, 3-19, 4-92, 5-93, 6-97, 7-117.
BOWLING: McLean 12.4-3-35-1; Morris 13-8-19-2; Mascarenhas 9-4-24-0; Renshaw 10-3-25-2; Stephenson 7-1-27-2.
Umpires: R Julian and M J Kitchen

Sussex v Northamptonshire

HOVE (final day of four): Sussex (7pts) drew with Northamptonshire (12)

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings 391 for 8 dec (M L Hayden 119, R J Warren 88, D Ripley 50 not out)

SUSSEX: First Innings

R R Montgomerie c Ripley b Malcolm	8
M T E Peirce c Ripley b Taylor	9
*C J Adams b Malcolm	4
M J Di Venuto c Warren b Malcolm	0
P A Cottey lbw b Malcolm	10
R K Rao not out	52
R S C Martin-Jenkins c Swann b Follett	15
A D Edwards c Ripley b Swann	0
†S Humphries b Malcolm	1
R J Kirtley c Hayden b Swann	0
M A Robinson b Malcolm	0
Extras (b 1, lb 2, nb 2)	5
Total	**104**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12, 2-16, 3-18, 4-28, 5-38, 6-72, 7-79, 8-82, 9-87.
BOWLING: Malcolm 17.2-4-39-6; Taylor 11-4-10-1; Follett 8-3-16-1; Swann 13-3-30-2; Sales 1-1-0-0.

Second Innings

R R Montgomerie not out	113
M T E Peirce lbw b Swann	48
*C J Adams not out	35
Extras (b 3, lb 4, w 4, nb 2)	13
Total (1 wkt)	**209**

FALL OF WICKET: 1-150.
BOWLING: Malcolm 11-2-47-0; Follett 12-5-22-0; Hayden 4-1-14-0; Taylor 12-4-31-0; Penberthy 7-2-19-0; Swann 16-3-62-1; Bailey 3-0-4-0; Sales 4-1-3-0.
Umpires: V A Holder and T E Jesty

Yorkshire v Gloucestershire

HEADINGLEY (final day of four): Yorkshire (19pts) beat Gloucestershire (4) by 51 runs

YORKSHIRE: First Innings 282 (G M Hamilton 81 not out, A M Smith 4 for 73)

Second Innings

G S Blewett c Russell b Lewis	12
M P Vaughan lbw b Lewis	3
*D Byas c and b Lewis	16
M J Wood b Smith	42
R J Harden retired hurt	4
C White b Smith	40
†R J Blakey c Alleyne b Lewis	0
G M Hamilton not out	14
D Gough not out	7
Extras (lb 4, nb 6)	10
Total (6 wkts dec)	**148**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-32, 3-37, 4-124, 5-125, 6-129.
BOWLING: Smith 16-6-58-2; Lewis 20-6-60-4; Harvey 6-2-13-0; Alleyne 2-0-13-0.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings 169 (G M Hamilton 4 for 26)

Second Innings

K J Barnett c White b Hamilton	36
T H C Hancock lbw b Gough	7
D R Hewson c White b Sidebottom	10
*M W Alleyne b White	5
M G N Windows c Sidebottom b Hamilton	39
I J Harvey c Wood b Gough	6
J N Snape c Vaughan b Hamilton	48
†R C Russell not out	8
M C J Ball c sub b Gough	4
J Lewis b Gough	0
A M Smith c Byas b Sidebottom	0
Extras (b 2, lb 15)	17
Total	**180**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-19, 2-58, 3-58, 4-83, 5-95, 6-165, 7-168, 8-175, 9-175.
BOWLING: Gough 16-6-27-4; Hoggard 14-3-53-0; Hamilton 12-5-33-3; Sidebottom 13-3-34-2; White 7-1-16-1.
Umpires: D J Constant and B Leadbeater

	P	W	L	D	Bt	Bl	Pts
Leics (1)	2	1	0	1	4	6	26
Northants (15)	2	0	0	2	4	8	20
Yorkshire (3)	1	1	0	0	2	4	18
Sussex (7)	2	0	0	2	4	6	18
Kent (11)	2	0	0	2	2	8	18
Warwicks (8)	2	0	0	2	7	2	17
Surrey (5)	2	0	0	2	4	4	16
Worcs (13)	2	0	0	2	0	6	14
Lancashire (2)	2	0	0	2	3	3	14
Middlesex (17)	2	0	0	2	2	4	14
Gloucs (4)	2	0	1	1	1	8	13
Durham (14)	1	0	0	1	3	4	11
Hampshire (6)	1	0	0	1	2	3	9
Somerset (9)	1	0	0	1	0	3	7
Glamorgan (12)	1	0	0	1	0	1	5
Notts (16)	1	0	0	1	0	0	4
Essex (18)	1	0	1	0	2	2	4
Derbyshire (10)	1	0	0	1	0	0	4

(Last year's positions in brackets)

CGU National League

Second division

Somerset Sabres v Durham Dynamos

TAUNTON (Durham Dynamos won toss): Somerset Sabres (4pts) beat Durham Dynamos (0) by 52 runs

SOMERSET SABRES

*J Cox c Phillips b Betts	16
M T Burns c Collingwood b Brown	0
P C L Holloway b Phillips	54
P D Bowler b Wood	13
M E Trescothick c Daley b Wood	36
K A Parsons c Speight b Betts	34
†R J Turner run out	32
J I D Kerr c Brown b Wood	17
M P L Bulbeck c Speight b Betts	1
P S Jones c Speight b Betts	0
A R Caddick not out	1
Extras (b 1, lb 5, w 9, nb 4)	19
Total (43.4 overs)	**223**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7, 2-17, 3-66, 4-128, 5-138, 6-193, 7-220, 8-222, 9-222.
BOWLING: Brown 8-1-41-1; Betts 8.4-0-39-4; Harrison 8-0-46-0; Wood 8-1-43-3; Phillips 9-0-40-1; Collingwood 2-0-5-0.

DURHAM DYNAMOS

*D C Boon b Jones	8
J E Morris run out	30
P D Collingwood c Holloway b Caddick	7
J A Daley lbw b Kerr	10
†M P Speight c Kerr b Cox	42
J J B Lewis b Jones	23
M M Betts c and b Cox	15
N C Phillips c Caddick b Cox	4
J Wood b Burns	12
S J E Brown lbw b Burns	4
S J Harmison not out	0
Extras (lb 3, w 13)	16
Total (38.2 overs)	**171**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-41, 3-57, 4-68, 5-112, 6-151, 7-151, 8-166, 9-168.
BOWLING: Caddick 6-0-19-1; Jones 7-0-36-2; Bulbeck 3-0-15-0; Kerr 4-0-26-1; Parsons 7-0-24-0; Cox 7-0-28-3; Burns 5.2-0-20-2.
Umpires: D R Shepherd and A Clarkson

One-day internationals

West Indies v Australia

BRIDGETOWN (West Indies won toss): Australia beat West Indies by four wickets

WEST INDIES

S Campbell c Gilchrist b Warne	24
†R D Jacobs c Julian b Warne	68
*J C Adams c Gilchrist b Moody	46
C L Hooper run out	8
S C Chanderpaul c Ponting b M E Waugh	44
S C Williams st Gilchrist b Warne	9
K L T Arthurton c Ponting b Fleming	16
H R Bryan c and b Fleming	6
N O Perry not out	7
M Dillon not out	1
Extras (lb 6, w 13, nb 1)	20
Total (8 wkts, 50 overs)	**249**

R D King did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-81, 2-107, 3-122, 4-183, 5-208, 6-214, 7-238, 8-241.
BOWLING: Fleming 9-0-53-2; Moody 8-1-49-1; Warne 10-1-28-3; Lee 3-0-27-0; M E Waugh 10-1-35-1; Julian 7-0-32-0; Lehmann 3-0-19-0.

AUSTRALIA

†A C Gilchrist c Jacobs b Bryan	64
M E Waugh c Adams b Dillon	25
B P Julian c Adams b King	31
R T Ponting run out	43
D S Lehmann c Adams b King	2
*S R Waugh c Jacobs b Perry	5
M G Bevan not out	36
S Lee not out	19
Extras (lb 10, w 13, nb 6)	29
Total (6 wkts, 48.3 overs)	**253**

T M Moody, S K Warne and D W Fleming did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-71, 2-111, 3-154, 4-163, 5-171, 6-206.
BOWLING: Dillon 9.3-0-54-1; King 10-0-50-2; Bryan 9-0-58-1; Hooper 8-0-37-0; Arthurton 2-0-15-0; Perry 10-0-29-1.
Umpires: B Morgan and E A Nicholls

BRIDGETOWN (Australia won toss): West Indies need 253 runs to beat Australia

AUSTRALIA

M E Waugh b King	26
†A C Gilchrist c Ambrose b Dillon	6
R T Ponting c Williams b Dillon	1
D S Lehmann c Jacobs b Ambrose	8
*S R Waugh c Jacobs b King	30
M G Bevan run out	34
S Lee b King	47
T M Moody not out	50
B P Julian b Arthurton	20
S K Warne run out	20
D W Fleming not out	0
Extras (lb 5, w 3, nb 2)	10
Total (9 wkts, 50 overs)	**252**

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-8, 3-29, 4-63, 5-80, 6-119, 7-175, 8-200, 9-250.
BOWLING: Ambrose 9-1-51-1; Dillon 10-2-36-2; King 9-0-59-3; Perry 5-0-22-0; Bryan 8-2-36-0; Arthurton 9-0-43-1.

WEST INDIES: *J C Adams, S L Campbell, †R D Jacobs, S Chanderpaul, K L T Arthurton, S C Williams, C E L Ambrose, M Dillon, N O Perry, H R Bryan, R D King.
Umpires: B Morgan and E A Nicholls

Club cricket

BOLTON LEAGUE: Little Lever 147-8 dec Egerton 148-3. Eagley 144 Farnworth 145-3, Horwich 117-7 dec Farnworth SC 118-5, Greenmount 134-5 dec Bradshaw 138-3. Heaton 108-8 dec Tonge 109-9, Astley Bridge 150-5 dec Kearsley 150-3. Westhoughton 163-9 dec Walkden 77.
CHESHIRE COUNTY LEAGUE: Cheadle Hulme 120 Alsager 112-7, Brooklands 121-9 Chester Boughton Hall 116-7, Toft 169-7 Bowdon 170-2.
DERBYSHIRE LEAGUE: Alvaston and Boulton 183 Chesterfield 68, Sandiacre Town 145-8 Ockbrook and Borrowash 130-8.
DURHAM SENIOR LEAGUE: Boldon 177-8 Burnmoor 178-3. Horden 125 Chester-le-Street 126-4, Durham City 163-8 Eppleton 164-1. Seaham Harbour 173 South Shields 176-4.
HUDDERSFIELD LEAGUE: Kirkheaton 110-6 Elland 111-3. Scholes 208-3 Hall Bower 91-7. Broadoak 214-5 Lascelles Hall 217-8. Slaithwaite 171-8 Linthwaite 174-7. Thongsbridge 137-8 Shepley 90-7.
CENTRAL LANCASHIRE LEAGUE: Radcliffe 76 Heywood 77-0. Walsden 126-5 Middleton 107-9.
NORTH LANCASHIRE LEAGUE: Millom 115-8 Carlisle 116-4, Workington 123-8 Carnforth 124-5, Barrow 207-7 Duddon SC 177-6. Vickers Sports 171-6 Furness 176-3. Vickerstown 165 Lindal 161-8. Cleator 202-6 Ulverston 114-8.
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE LEAGUE: Old Northamptonians 111 County Colts 112-3.
NORTHERN LEAGUE: Leyland DAF 143-6 Blackpool 147-5, Darwen 170-7 Kendal 91, Lancaster 94 Chorley 96-3; Leyland 84 Morecambe 74. Preston 92 Netherfield 94-2. Fleetwood 90 St Annes 94-1.
NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY LEAGUE: Tynedale 150-8 Jesmond 151-9, Alnwick 123-7 Tynemouth 127-4.
RIBBLESDALE LEAGUE: Whalley 191-5 Blackburn Northern 171-9. Padiham 176-6 Oswaldtwistle 133-8. Read 132 Clitheroe 136-5; Edenfield 99-6 Ribblesdale W 100-7. Settle 91-6 Great Harwood 90-7.
NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE AND SOUTH CHESHIRE LEAGUE: Cheadle 182-4 dec Audley 119-6, Betley 153-7 Elworth 72-7. Newcastle and H 154-9 Knypersley 102-5. Stone 83 Longton 84-1.
SUSSEX CUP: Group matches: Brighton and Hove 126-9 Hastings 85; Bexhill 192-9 Eastbourne 196-5. Horsham 199-7 Middleton 192-9. East Grinstead 93 Three Bridges 96-2.
TYNESIDE SENIOR LEAGUE: Consett 217-8 Seaton Burn 87-6, Lanchester 151 Shotley Bridge 153-7. Ryton 208-6 Sacriston 138. Blaydon 151-8 Burnopfield 88.
NORTH YORKSHIRE/SOUTH DURHAM LEAGUE: Saltburn 86 Darlington 87-4. Hartlepool 158-5 Stockton 160. Darlington RA 144-8 Norton 95-5.
YORKSHIRE LEAGUE: Hull 116 Scarborough 117-6.
CENTRAL YORKSHIRE LEAGUE: Methley 135-9 Altofts 131; Mirfield 104-6 Ossett 86, Slazengers 175-7 Townville 88. Woodlands 132-9 New Farnley 133-4, Wrenthorpe 86 Birstall 87-2. Gomersal 104-6 Liversedge 86.
☐ Other matches postponed/abandoned

RUGBY UNION

Allied Dunbar Premiership

First division

Bath 56 W Hartlepool 24
Bath: Tries: Balshaw 2, Perry 2, Cooper, Maggs, Regan, Tindall. **Cons:** Catt 5. **Pens:** Catt 2. **West Hartlepool: Tries:** Farrell, Greaves. **Con:** Vile. **Pens:** Vile 4. **HT:** 29-17. **Att:** 6,200.

Bedford 31 Northampton 42
Bedford: Tries: Ewens, Forster, Murdoch, O'Mahony, Oliver. **Cons:** Yapp 2, Stewart. **Northampton: Tries:** Lam 2, Cohen, penalty try, Seely. **Cons:** A Hepher 4. **Pens:** A Hepher 3. **HT:** 17-28. **Att:** 4,698.

Newcastle 39 Gloucester 15
Newcastle: Tries: Armstrong 2, Graham, Legg, Wood. **Cons:** Wilkinson 4. **Pens:** Wilkinson 2. **Gloucester: Tries:** Beim, Davis. **Con:** Mannix. **Pen:** Mapletoft. **HT:** 18-7. **Att:** 3,748.

Richmond 5 Wasps 29
Richmond: Try: Pichot. **Wasps: Tries:** Denney, Logan, Sampson, Utton. **Cons:** Logan 2, King. **Pen:** King. **HT:** 5-10.

Sale 17 Leicester 41
Sale: Tries: Baxendell, Howarth, Mather. **Con:** Howarth. **Leicester: Tries:** Back 2, Corry, Healey, Lougheed. **Cons:** Stimpson 2. **Pens:** Stimpson 4. **HT:** 12-23. **Att:** 4,800.

Saracens 30 Harlequins 38
Saracens: Tries: Daniel 2, penalty try. **Cons:** Johnson 3. **Pens:** Johnson 3. **Harlequins: Tries:** Luger, Murphy, O'Leary, Sheasby. **Cons:** Liley 2, Lacroix. **Pens:** Lacroix 2, Liley 2. **HT:** 10-25. **Att:** 8,719.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leicester	24	20	0	4	678	374	40
Northampton	23	17	0	6	652	477	34
Bath	23	14	0	9	592	504	28
London Irish	24	14	0	10	646	560	28
Wasps	23	13	1	9	625	444	27
Harlequins	22	13	1	8	593	564	27
Newcastle	23	13	0	10	648	555	26
Saracens	22	12	1	9	631	508	25
* Richmond	22	10	2	10	554	617	20
Gloucester	23	8	1	14	477	552	17
Sale	24	8	1	15	557	680	17
London Scot	23	7	0	16	430	599	14
Bedford	23	5	0	18	469	698	10
W Hartlepool	23	3	1	19	450	870	7

* Richmond deducted 2pts

LEADING SCORERS: 329: J Schuster (Harlequins, 5 tries, 35 conversions, 77 penalty goals, 1 dropped goal). **263:** M Catt (Bath, 4t, 42c, 53pg). **262:** G Johnson (Saracens, 7t, 43c, 47pg). **255:** J Wilkinson (Newcastle; 8t, 46c, 41pg). **240:** S Vile (West Hartlepool; 5t, 28c, 52pg, 1dg). **231:** K Logan (Wasps, 7t, 29c, 46pg). **216:** S Howarth (Sale; 7t, 38c, 35pg, 1dg). **Tries: 14:** P Lam (Northampton). **13:** N Back (Leicester). **12:** S Hanley (Sale), G Armstrong (Newcastle), I Balshaw (Bath).

Second division

Blackheath 43 Rugby 20
Blackheath: Tries: Clarke, D Fitzgerald, James, Razak, Wilkins. **Cons:** Amor 3. **Pens:** Amor 3. **Dropped goal:** Amor. **Rugby: Tries:** M Davies, B Harrison. **Cons:** M Davies 2. **Pens:** M Davies 2. **HT:** 15-17.

Bristol 36 Exeter 17
Bristol: Tries: Baber, Eagle, Larkin, Leaupepe, Pritchard, Robinson. **Cons:** Hull 3. **Exeter: Tries:** Wall 2, Barrow. **Con:** B Easson. **HT:** 31-3. **Att:** 3,204.

Coventry 26 Worcester 17
Coventry: Tries: Smallwood 2. **Cons:** Gough 2. **Pens:** Gough 4. **Worcester: Try:** Bader. **Pens:** Lolthouse 4. **HT:** 13-3.

London Welsh 24 Leeds 17
London Welsh: Tries: Woodard 2, Currier. **Cons:** Raymond 3. **Pen:** Raymond. **Leeds: Try:** Middleton. **Pens:** Tupuloto 4. **HT:** 17-3.

Orrell 28 Fylde 18
Orrell: Tries: Verbickas 2, Rees. **Cons:** Verbickas 2. **Pens:** Verbickas 2. **Dropped goal:** Wynn. **Fylde: Tries:** Lawn, Tellow. **Con:** Loxton. **Pens:** Loxton 2. **HT:** 16-8.

Rotherham 44 Waterloo 3
Rotherham: Tries: Lax 3, Austin, Dudley, Hall, West. **Cons:** Narchos 3. **Pen:** Narchos. **Waterloo: Pen:** L Griffiths. **HT:** 20-3.

Wakefield 38 Moseley 20
Wakefield: Tries: Breheny 4, Ashforth, Dixon. **Con:** Dixon. **Pens:** Ashforth 2. **Moseley: Tries:** Cook 2, Buxton. **Con:** A Binns. **Pen:** A Binns. **HT:** 16-3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol	24	20	0	4	783	394	40
Rotherham	24	20	0	4	694	309	40
* Worcester	24	18	0	6	678	353	34
London Welsh	24	15	0	9	608	529	30
Leeds	24	14	0	10	598	333	28
Exeter	25	13	1	11	549	566	27
Coventry	24	13	0	11	583	517	26
Waterloo	24	12	0	12	391	531	24
Orrell	24	11	0	13	475	426	22
Moseley	24	9	0	15	468	577	18
Rugby	24	9	0	15	392	563	18
Wakefield	24	6	0	18	443	721	12
Fylde	24	4	1	19	338	757	9
Blackheath	25	4	0	21	392	816	8

* Worcester deducted 2pts

LEADING SCORERS: 286: S Gough (Coventry; 10 tries, 43 conversions, 50 penalty goals). **240:** S Tupuloto (Leeds; 3t, 33c, 53pg). **224:** B Easson (Exeter; 2t, 35c, 48pg). **193:** L Griffiths (Waterloo, 2t, 24c, 45pg). **177:** M Davies (Rugby, 4t, 23c, 37pg). **172:** S Verbickas (Orrell; 8t, 21c, 30pg). **156:** P Hull (Bristol; 5t, 34c, 21pg). **Tries: 17:** D Lax (Rotherham). **16:** B Wade (Rotherham). **15:** A Currier (London Welsh). **13:** A Larkin (Bristol).

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES (at Twickenham): Royal Navy 13 Army 24. England Students under-21 XV 22 Combined Services under-21 XV 11.

Welsh League

Premier division play-offs

Group A

Ebbw Vale 3 Llanelli 42
Ebbw Vale: Pen: Strange. **Llanelli: Tries:** Finau 2, Hayward, Hodges, Jenkins. **Cons:** Hayward 4. **Pens:** Hayward 2. **Dropped goal:** Hayward. **HT:** 0-13.

Neath 33 Pontypridd 21
Neath: Tries: S Williams 3. **Cons:** M Pearce 3. **Pens:** M Pearce 4. **Pontypridd: Tries:** J Lewis, Shorney. **Con:** Wyatt. **Pens:** Wyatt 3. **HT:** 16-13.

Group B

Bridgend 31 Caerphilly 25
Bridgend: Try: A Williams. **Con:** Cull. **Pens:** Cull 8. **Caerphilly: Tries:** Bridges 2, Hooper, Savastano. **Con:** Davey. **Pen:** Davey. **HT:** 19-12.

Newport 57 Aberavon 19
Newport: Tries: Cardey 2, Connor 2, Mitchell, Moore, Snow, M Watkins. **Cons:** Mitchell 7. **Pen:** Mitchell. **Aberavon: Tries:** D Griffiths, Neil, C Rees. **Cons:** C Rees 2. **HT:** 10-12.

First division

Abertillery 17 Pontypool 19
Abertillery: Tries: Baylis, Betts, Withers. **Con:** Withers. **Pontypool: Tries:** F Vunipola 2; Silva. **Cons:** Silva 2. **HT:** 12-19.

Bonymaen 41 S Wales Police 0
Bonymaen: Tries: Powell 4, Mills 2, McPherson. **Cons:** G Jones 3. **HT:** 17-0.

Cross Keys 0 UWIC 27
UWIC: Tries: P Jones 2, A Wagstaff, G Williams. **Cons:** Welch 2. **Dropped goal:** Welch. **HT:** 0-20.

Maesteg 5 Llandovery 52
Maesteg: Try: G Davies. **Llandovery: Tries:** T Lewis 2, Roberts 2, C Davies, James, M Jones, G Thomas. **Cons:** A Williams 3. **Pens:** A Williams 2. **HT:** 0-23.

Merthyr 29 Rumney 28
Merthyr: Tries: Bryant, Price, Sheppeard, G Thomas. **Cons:** J Lloyd 3. **Pen:** J Lloyd. **Rumney: Tries:** M Bowcott, Folana, Mason. **Cons:** Mason 2. **Pens:** Mason 3. **HT:** 8-10.

Newbridge 23 Dunvant 13
Newbridge: Tries: P Jones, M Taylor. **Cons:** Williams 2. **Pens:** Williams 3. **Dunvant: Try:** Hawkins. **Con:** Daniel. **Pens:** M Thomas 2. **HT:** 17-6.

Tondu 20 Blackwood 34
Tondu: Tries: Dyke, Folana, C Hocking. **Con:** Howells. **Pen:** Howells. **Blackwood: Tries:** Lay, K Rees, G Rees, W Simms. **Con:** Brown. **Pens:** Brown 4. **HT:** 3-22.

Treorchy 20 Tredegar 25
Treorchy: Tries: Camboume 2, Riggs. **Con:** D Evans. **Pen:** D Evans. **Tredegar: Tries:** Davies, Forrester, Jarman. **Cons:** M Chapman 2. **Pen:** M Chapman. **Dropped goal:** M Chapman. **HT:** 10-7.

Leading positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T	B	Pts
Dunvant	27	22	1	4	956	429	139	23	90
Bonymaen	27	20	2	5	687	319	99	19	81
Pontypool	26	20	0	6	677	417	92	11	71
Merthyr	29	16	2	11	615	587	83	8	58
Treorchy	26	14	2	10	698	508	97	12	56
Cross Keys	27	16	1	10	592	500	69	6	55
Llandovery	28	14	2	12	702	617	94	9	53
Abertillery	29	12	2	15	542	585	67	10	48

SECOND DIVISION: Kenfig Hill 32 Whitland 43; Llanharan 85 Pyle 9; Llantrisant 6 Abercynon 25, Oakdale 13 St Peters 18, Rhymney 43 Wrexham 13, Tenby Utd 26 Mountain Ash 30, Ystradgynlais 55 Narberth 11.

Anglo-Welsh club matches

Cardiff 34 London Scot 15
Cardiff: Tries: Botham, Robinson, G Thomas, Wintle. **Cons:** Jarvis 4. **Pens:** Jarvis 2. **London Scottish: Tries:** McAusland, McFadyean. **Con:** De Beer. **Pen:** McAusland. **HT:** 7-10.

Swansea 34 London Irish 31
Swansea: Tries: 2 penalty tries, Gibbs, Maullin, Rees. **Cons:** L Davies 3. **Pen:** L Davies. **London Irish: Tries:** Cunningham 2, Venter, Woods. **Cons:** Cunningham 2, Woods 2. **Pen:** Woods.

Tennent's Velvet Cup final

Gala 8 Kelso 3
Gala: Try: C Paterson. **Dropped goal:** C Paterson. **Kelso: Pen:** Aitcheson. **HT:** 0-3
(at Murrayfield)

TENNENT'S VELVET BOWL: Final: Duns 34 Garnock 17.
TENNENT'S VELVET SHIELD: Final: Gordonians 23 Jed-Forest 35.
AIB LEAGUE: First division: Semi-final: Garryowen 19 St Mary's 17, Cork Constitution 32 Buccaneers 20. **Second division:** Ballynahinch 6 Dolphin 12, Derry 10 Wanderers 16, Malone 24 Old Crescent 17, Portadown 19 Greystones 15; UCC 8 Dungannon 33.

SUPER 12 TOURNAMENT: Saturday: Waikato 44 Golden Cats 42; Auckland 6 Coastal Sharks 12; Northern Bulls 28 Canterbury 30. **Yesterday:** Wellington 13 ACT 21.
FRENCH CHAMPIONSHIP: Pool one: Agen 10 Toulouse 24, Bourgoin 36 Biarritz 16. **Pool two:** Narbonne 24 Stade Français 35. Colomiers 22 Pau 16. **Pool three:** Castres 47 Bègles-Bordeaux 23; Dax 22 Perpignan 27. **Pool four:** Montferrand 60 Brive 31; Toulon 14 Grenoble 24.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Friday: Washington 78 Atlanta 89, New York 110 Charlotte 105, Orlando 88 Toronto 95, Chicago 71 Boston 100, Milwaukee 79 Cleveland 75, Denver 96 Golden State 84, Los Angeles Clippers 106 Houston 101 (OT), Sacramento 105 Minnesota 97, Utah 96 Portland 85, Vancouver 84 Seattle 97. **Saturday:** Charlotte 97 New Jersey 82, Indiana 87 Chicago 69, San Antonio 108 Los Angeles Lakers 81, Sacramento 105 Dallas 102, Golden State 93 Denver 74, Los Angeles Clippers 105 Vancouver 96.

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	29	13	.690	—
Orlando	29	16	.644	1½
Philadelphia	24	19	.558	5½
New York	22	21	.512	7½
Boston	17	27	.386	13
Washington	16	27	.372	13½
New Jersey	13	30	.302	16½

Central division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	29	15	.659	—
Atlanta	27	17	.614	2
Milwaukee	24	19	.558	4½
Detroit	23	20	.535	5½
Toronto	22	21	.512	6½
Charlotte	22	21	.512	6½
Cleveland	21	22	.488	7½
Chicago	12	33	.267	17½

Western Conference

Midwest division

	W	L	Pct	GB
† Utah	33	10	.767	—
† San Antonio	31	12	.721	2
Houston	27	16	.628	6
Minnesota	22	22	.500	11½
Dallas	15	29	.341	18½
Denver	14	30	.318	19½
Vancouver	8	37	.178	25

Pacific division

	W	L	Pct	GB
† Portland	31	11	.738	—
LA Lakers	27	18	.600	5½
Phoenix	22	21	.512	9½
Sacramento	22	22	.500	10
Seattle	21	22	.488	10½
Golden State	19	25	.432	13
LA Clippers	9	35	.205	23

† denotes won play-off place

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Friday: Boston 6 Cleveland 7; Baltimore 7 Oakland 4, Tampa Bay 5 Seattle 4, Chicago White Sox 5 Detroit 0, Kansas City 2 Anaheim 4, Minnesota 2 Texas 4, New York Yankees 6 Toronto 4. **Saturday:** Boston 9 Cleveland 4, Baltimore 0 Oakland 3, New York Yankees 7 Toronto 4, Chicago White Sox 3 Detroit 1; Kansas City 4 Anaheim 3, Tampa Bay 4 Seattle 9, Minnesota 2 Texas 7.

East division

	W	L	Pct	GB
NY Yankees	11	5	.688	—
Toronto	12	6	.667	—
Tampa Bay	11	8	.579	1½
Boston	9	8	.529	2½
Baltimore	4	13	.235	7½

Central division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	12	4	.750	—
Chicago WS	9	6	.600	2½
Detroit	7	10	.412	5½
Minnesota	7	11	.389	6
Kansas City	6	10	.375	6

West division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	10	8	.556	—
Oakland	8	10	.444	2
Seattle	7	10	.412	2½
Anaheim	7	11	.389	3

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Friday: Chicago Cubs 5 NY Mets 6; Cincinnati 7 Houston 5, Florida 9 Atlanta 1; Montreal 2 Philadelphia 6, Pittsburgh 1 Milwaukee 9; San Diego 6 Arizona 10; Los Angeles 5 St Louis 12; San Francisco 7 Colorado 2. **Saturday:** Cincinnati 3 Houston 4; Pittsburgh 3 Milwaukee 5, Chicago Cubs 2 NY Mets 0; San Francisco 8 Colorado 4; Florida 7 Atlanta 8; Montreal 5 Philadelphia 6, San Diego 7 Arizona 2, Los Angeles 0 St Louis 1.

East division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	10	6	.625	—
NY Mets	11	7	.611	—
Philadelphia	9	8	.529	1½
Montreal	6	10	.375	4
Florida	5	12	.294	5½

Central division

	W	L	Pct	GB
St Louis	10	6	.625	—
Houston	9	7	.563	1
Pittsburgh	8	8	.500	2
Milwaukee	8	9	.471	2½
Chicago Cubs	6	9	.400	3½
Cincinnati	6	10	.375	4

West division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	12	7	.632	—
Arizona	10	8	.556	1½
Los Angeles	9	9	.500	2½
San Diego	8	9	.471	3
Colorado	6	8	.429	3½

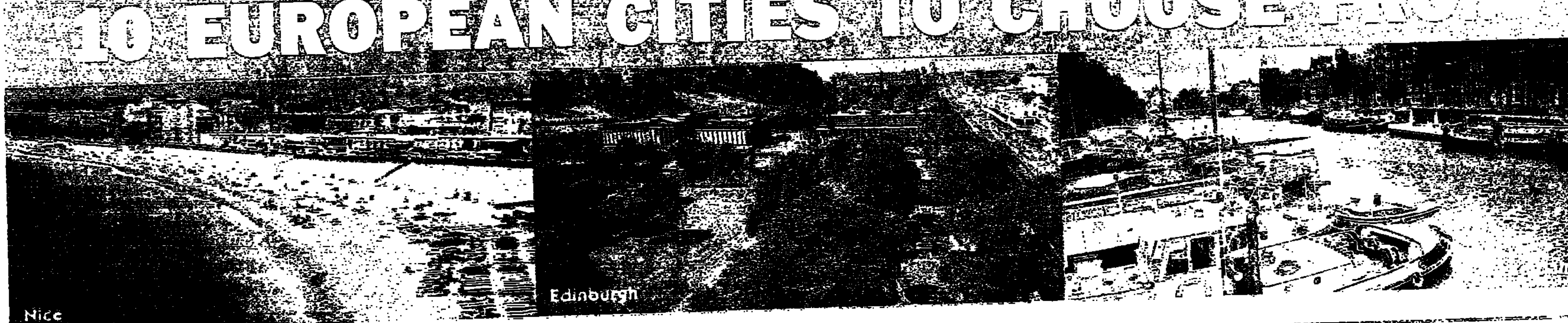
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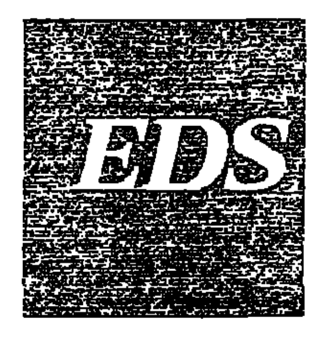
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CHANGING TIMES

FLORA LONDON MARATHON

Finishing line in sight for stragglers



Here, exclusive to *The Times*, are the finishers in the 1999 Flora London Marathon. The information is provided by EDS, official suppliers of computers to the race, and today includes all those who ran between 5hr 29min 33sec and 5hr 56min 48sec. Names and times of the last set of finishers will be published tomorrow.

J Connell 5:29:33; B Bryan 5:29:35; J Meads 5:29:35; P Gerrard 5:29:35; D Lobb 5:29:35; G Smith 5:29:37; G Routledge 5:29:38; J Pendleton 5:29:38; J Hassell 5:29:38; S Erskine 5:29:38; A Marriott 5:29:39; C Seamark 5:29:39; D Blair 5:29:39; J Coutts 5:29:40; C Black 5:29:42; R Valler 5:29:44; M Knight 5:29:44; K Strath 5:29:45; V Watson 5:29:46; C Sillito 5:29:46; J Rushby 5:29:47.

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28801—M Nightingale 5:55:15; L Litowkin 5:55:16; C Cole 5:55:21; T Atkinson 5:55:21; D Hill 5:55:24; K Garas 5:55:24; L Hellewell 5:55:25; B Street 5:55:25; D Stapleton 5:55:26; S Atkinson 5:55:26; A Payne 5:55:26; N Williams 5:55:27; P Douglas 5:55:28; J Spurling 5:55:30; M Walker 5:55:38; E Leach 5:55:42; C Mills 5:55:43; A Campbell 5:55:45; J Jones 5:55:50; C Babbs 5:55:52; R Dodds 5:55:56; A Attoe 5:55:56; A Horsburgh 5:55:56; A Buckingham 5:55:57; E Roussel 5:55:59; K Roussel 5:55:59; L Corbiere 5:56:00; E Briggs 5:56:01; M Atkins 5:56:01; M Baculo Jr 5:56:01; E Beatty 5:56:02; S Robertson 5:56:02; C Liberty 5:56:02; S Gender 5:56:06; A Hay 5:56:06; T Maddox 5:56:07; M Dowd 5:56:07; J Edwards 5:56:08; R Reilly 5:56:09; J Loon 5:56:10; S Parry 5:56:11; D Hughes 5:56:11; S Mcglashan 5:56:11; J Phillips 5:56:12; R Poole 5:56:12; L Taylor 5:56:13; S Dransfield 5:56:14; M Kadi 5:56:15; J Courtney 5:56:15; J Hughes 5:56:15; S Reed 5:56:16; K Erkadoo 5:56:16; P Ashton 5:56:17; A Tamrabet 5:56:17; T Penn 5:56:17; A Rajendram 5:56:17; J Le Serve 5:56:18; R Littler 5:56:18; D Hobson 5:56:19; T Barker 5:56:19; D Lloyd 5:56:21; P Sycamore 5:56:21; N Hall 5:56:22; S Austin 5:56:29; S Chujor 5:56:30; N Woolhouse 5:56:31; J Buchanan 5:56:32; D Shire 5:56:34; J Spalding 5:56:35; R Goulding 5:56:35; B Fiddes 5:56:36; J Ashton-jones 5:56:37; R Dudley 5:56:38; L Kiwus 5:56:39; D Mahoney 5:56:40; H Rumbelow 5:56:44; C Wilde 5:56:45; M Wakeham 5:56:47; M Heath 5:56:48.

Final results tomorrow



ANTHONY UPTON

Who do they think they are? Spice Girl "lookalikes" stop for a photocall by Tower Bridge en route to The Mall

FLORA LONDON MARATHON



SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

Despite being the National Senior Pairs Champions of England, the difference in closing date for the age qualification meant that Peter Littlewood & Graham Jepson were not old enough for the Prokom Software European Senior Pairs in Warsaw and they had to take their chances in the Open Pairs Championship. They failed to make the first cut by the slender margin of one matchpoint, but came good in the repechage, taking the last of the four final places available from the B semi-final.

They had to work hard on this deal to secure an average, as the majority of the field played the North-South cards in game and usually conceded -50.

Dealer East | Love all | Pairs

North: ♠ A 7; ♡ 5 4 3; ◇ A 10 8 7 4 3; ♣ K 4

West: ♠ J 9 8 4; ♡ 2; ◇ Q 9 6; ♣ 8 6 5 3 2

East: ♠ K 6 5 3; ♡ Q 9 7 6; ◇ K 2; ♣ A J 7

South: ♠ Q 10 2; ♡ A K J 10 8; ◇ J 5; ♣ Q 10 9

W	N	E	S
Jepson		Littlewood	
–	–	1 NT	2 H
Pass	3 H	All Pass	

Contract: Three Hearts by South. Lead: six of diamonds.

At trick one declarer played low in dummy, allowing East to win with the king. When declarer failed to unblock the jack, East was able to return the suit, forcing South to win in hand when West wisely withheld the queen.

Declarer now played the ace, king and jack of hearts, putting East on play with the queen. Appreciating the danger posed by the diamond suit Peter Littlewood switched to the king of spades! The removal of the only certain entry to dummy left the fate of the contract dependent on declarer's view in the club suit.

The defenders were rewarded when, after winning with the ace of spades, declarer led the ace of diamonds from dummy, ruffed and overruffed. He now ran the ten of clubs and East won with the jack and switched to a spade. When the finesse of the ten lost to West's jack the ace of clubs was the setting trick.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Hampstead

Hampstead was the scene of multiple chess activities during mid-April. There were three tournament sections and one match. The grandmaster section was won by Colin McNab with 7/9.

Final Scores: McNab 7; Barsov 6.5; Levitt 6; Gormally and Hector 5; Ippolito and Krush 4.5; Buckley 4; Pein and Gullaksen 3.5; Ansell 2.5; Bekker-Jensen 2.

White: Colin McNab
Black: Erik Gullaksen
Hampstead 1999

Kings Indian Defence

1	Nf3	Nf6
2	c4	g6
3	g3	Bg7
4	Bg2	0-0
5	0-0	d6
6	d4	Nc6
7	d5	Na5
8	Nbd2	c5
9	e4	e5
10	b3	Ne8
11	Ne1	f5
12	Nd3	f4
13	gxf4	exf4
14	Rb1	g5
15	e5	Bf5
16	Ne4	Bxe5
17	Nxe5	dxe5
18	Bb2	Nd6
19	Re1	Nf7
20	Nxc5	Bxb1
21	Qxb1	Re8
22	Be4	Qf6
23	Bxh7+	Kg7
24	Nd7	Qd6
25	Qf5	Nh6
26	Qxg5+	Kh8
27	Rxe5	Rxe5
28	Bxe5+	Qxe5
29	Nxe5	Kxh7
30	Qg6+	Black resigns

Diagram of final position

White: Simon Ansell
Black: Colin McNab
Hampstead 1999

Pirc Defence

1	e4	g6
2	d4	d6
3	Nc3	c6
4	Be3	Nf6
5	Nf3	Bg7
6	h3	Qa5
7	Nd2	Nbd7
8	Nb3	Qc7
9	g4	b5
10	a3	0-0
11	f4	Nb6
12	Qf3	a5
13	Bd3	Bb7
14	h4	b4
15	axb4	axb4
16	Rxa8	Rxa8
17	Nd1	Na4
18	Nd2	c5
19	d5	e6
20	dxe6	fxe6
21	Qh3	d5
22	e5	c4
23	Be2	Nd7
24	Bd4	Nxb2
25	h5	c3
26	Nf3	b3
27	hxg6	Nf8
28	gxh7+	Kh8
29	Nxb2	cxb2
30	Bxb2	bxc2
31	0-0	Ba6
32	Bxa6	Rxa6
33	f5	Rb6
34	Bc1	Bxe5
35	fxe6	Nxe6
36	Qh5	Bg7
37	Qe8+	Nf8
38	Ne5	Qxe5
39	Rxf8+	Kxh7
40	Qxe5	Bxe5
41	Rf5	Rb1
White resigns		

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

AGRYPNIA
a. A Byzantine Empress
b. Sleeplessness
c. A climbing fuchsia

BRODEKIN
a. A younger brother
b. A cobbler's awl
c. A tall boot

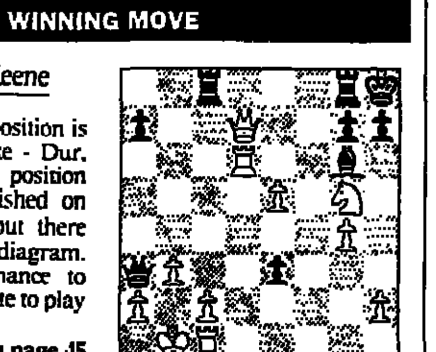
BUMBASS
a. A projectile
b. An off-key singer
c. A fishing lure

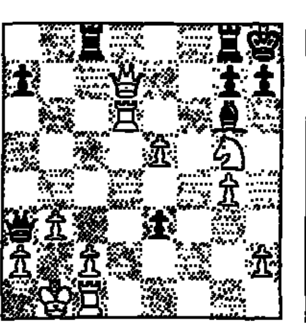
ABRAHAM'S BALM
a. Death
b. A tree
c. Frankincense

Answers on page 45

WINNING MOVE

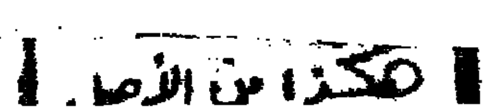
By Raymond Keene





White to play. This position is from the game Teske - Dur, Austria 1998. This position was originally published on Tuesday 20 April, but there was an error in the diagram. Here is another chance to solve this puzzle. White to play and win.

Solution on page 45





Court of Appeal

Law Report April 26 1999

Summary assessment of costs

Practice Note (Court of Appeal, *Civil Division*: Assessment of costs)

Following the introduction of the Civil Procedure Rules (SI 1998 No 3132) on April 26, 1999, the Court of Appeal would identify those appeals which appeared to be suitable for the summary assessment of costs and notify the parties accordingly.

Parties to appeals would not, therefore, need to file statements of costs unless they were informed by the Court of Appeal that that was required. However, parties could propose by letter to the court that a summary assessment might be suitable and, if the court agreed, it would ask for statements of costs to be filed.

The Court of Appeal would, in future, be more likely than before to make orders for costs which reflected the fact that a party, while successful in general on the appeal, had been unsuccessful in relation to certain issues.

Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, sitting in the Court of Appeal with *Lord Justice Auld and Lord Justice* Robert Walker, so stated in a practice note handed down on April 21.

THE MASTER OF THE *ROLLS stated that* Part 44 ("General Rules about Costs") of the Civil Procedure Rules 1998 (see *Civil Procedure* (Sweet and Maxwell (1999) *pp 431-437) and its accompanying* practice direction, did not explicitly set out the extent to which the *provisions* on the summary assessment of costs applied to the Court of Appeal, Civil Division.

This *practice note* therefore outlined the approach that the Court of Appeal would be taking with regard to the summary assessment of costs from April 26.

Summary assessment of costs

Paragraph 4.3 of the direction relating to Part 44 explained (at p476) that, in first instance courts, whenever a court made an order about costs which did not provide for fixed costs to be paid, the court should consider whether to make a summary assessment of costs.

The Court of Appeal fully supported that approach as an appropriate means of disposing of costs issues quickly and openly.

However, the position was less straightforward in the Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal was therefore concerned to ensure that it operated a system which avoided putting parties to the unnecessary expense of preparing statements of costs in cases which were unsuitable for a summary assessment.

To achieve that aim, the Court of Appeal itself would identify those *cases which appeared to be suitable* for summary assessment of *costs and would notify the relevant* parties accordingly. Parties to appeals would not therefore need to file statements of costs unless they were informed by the Court of Appeal that that was required.

Where the Court of Appeal informed the parties that it was minded to assess costs summarily, each party must prepare, file and exchange statements of costs and identify any items of the other party's statement which were in dispute, giving reasons for the dispute, not less than seven calendar days before the hearing.

It should be noted, however, that the fact that the Court of Appeal might have requested statements of costs did not place an obligation on the court to assess costs summarily.

That could be determined only when the parties' statements of costs were available and the extent to which any items were in dispute was known.

In addition, the fact that the Court of Appeal had not invited parties to file statements of costs did not prevent parties who agreed on that proposing by letter to the court that a summary assessment might be suitable. If the court agreed, it would ask for statements *of costs to be filed.*

Partial orders for costs

Although the Court of Appeal did not propose to make a summary assessment of costs, the Court of Appeal might none the less make *orders for costs which reflected the* fact that a party to the application, *while successful* in general on the appeal, had been unsuccessful in *relation to certain issues.*

After April 26, the Court of Appeal would be *more likely than* hitherto to make orders for costs *which reflected the outcome in relation* to different issues.

Future review

These practices would be monitored *over the coming months* and would be looked at again as part of the review of Order *59* of the *Rules* of the Supreme Court.

It *was* hoped that new Civil Procedure Rules and accompanying practice directions on civil appeals would be implemented early in the New Year.

Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Off-site planning condition valid

Davenport v Hammersmith and Fulham LBC

Before Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice Richards

[Judgment March 23]

A planning permission condition relating to land that was outside an application site or that was outside the control of the applicant for such permission was valid so long as it could be complied with.

The Queen's Bench Divisional *Court so held in refusing the appeal* of Joseph Davenport and *allowing the appeal of John Davenport* from their conviction by West *London Magistrates on March 11* for breach of a planning condition *notice.*

Joseph Davenport had been granted planning permission for motor vehicle repair facilities in Tasso Road in west London with various conditions including one that "No vehicles which have been *left with or are in the* control of the applicant shall be stored or parked *in Tasso Road*".

Tasso Road was outside the *application site and not under the control* of either appellant. John Davenport as well as *several of Joseph* Davenport's employees were seen to work on cars and then park them in Tasso Road.

Mr Richard Harwood for the appellants; Mr Michael Bedford for the local authority.

MR JUSTICE RICHARDS said *that in Mouchell Superannuation Fund Trustees v Oxfordshire County Council* ([1992] 1 PLR 97, 105) Lord Justice Glidewell had said: "...a condition purporting to require the carrying out of works on land neither within the application *site nor within the control of the applicant* is outside the powers of the [*Town and Country Planning Act* 1990]." Mr Harwood said that it was the *same underlying condition* in the present case.

His Lordship said that the court in that case had based its decision *on a planning condition that had* required the applicant to secure *more* than he could be assured of securing.

The appellants in the present case were plainly able to comply *with the condition. To comply with* the condition they clearly did not need to have control over the land.

There was nothing to show that a condition relating to land outside an application site or outside the control of the applicant was invalid *unless* the condition could *not* be assured of compliance. In relation *to that issue the justices had been* correct to reject the appellants' *submissions.*

The notice in relation to John Davenport was not valid because it was not a condition regarding the use of the relevant land and his appeal was allowed but that did not affect the position of Joseph Davenport.

Lord Justice Rose agreed.

Solicitors: William Sturges & *Co; Mr Cornelius Mahoney*, Hammersmith.

Prosecutor's duty to disclose

Regina v Director of Public Publications, Ex parte Lee

Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Mr Justice Blofeld

[Judgment March 18]

In cases triable only on indictment, there existed in the period between arrest and committal, a continuing duty on a *responsible* prosecutor to ascertain whether immediate disclosure was required in the interests of justice and fairness, in accordance with the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court, so held allowing an application for judicial review of the decision of the Crown Prosecution Service, on December 21, 1998, not to disclose unused material, prior to the committal for trial of Roger Lee *on a charge of murder.*

Mr James Turner, QC and Mr James *Roberts for Mr Lee: Mr* Jeremy Carter-Manning, QC and Mr Christopher Kinch for the Director of Public Prosecutions.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY *said that:*

1 The 1996 Act considerably reduced the ability of the defence to take an active part in committal proceedings, so the need for disclosure prior to committal was also reduced.

2 Part I of the 1996 Act introduced a completely new regime in relation to disclosure. It replaced most if not all of the provisions of the com*mon law from the moment of com*mittal with a two-stage process set *out in sections 3 and 7. The second* stage only occurred in response to *a defence statement.*

3 The disclosure required by the *1996 Act was intended to be less* extensive than would have been required prior to the 1996 Act at common law.

4 Although some disclosure might be required prior to committal, and thus prior to the period to which the Act applied, it would undermine the statutory *provisions* if the pre-committal discovery were to exceed the discovery obtainable after committal pursuant to the statute.

5 The 1996 Act did not specifically address the period between arrest *and committal, and whereas in* most cases prosecution disclosure *could wait until after committal* without jeopardising the defendant's *right to a fair trial the prosecutor* must always be alive to the need to make advance *disclosure* of material of which he was aware, either from his own consideration of the papers or because his attention had been drawn to it by the defence, and which he, as a responsible prosecutor, recognised should be disclosed at an earlier stage.

Examples canvassed before their Lordships were:

(a) previous convictions of a complainant or a deceased if that information could reasonably be expect*ed to assist the defence when apply*ing for bail;

(b) material which might enable a defendant to make a pre-commit*tal application to stay the proceed*ings as an abuse of process;

(c) material which might enable a defendant to submit that he should only be committed for trial on a lesser charge, or perhaps that he should not be committed for trial at all;

(d) material which would enable the defendant and his legal advisers to make preparations for trial which would be significantly less effective if disclosure was delayed, for example, names of eye witnesses whom the prosecution did not intend to use.

6 Any disclosure by the prosecu*tion prior to committal would not* normally exceed the primary dis*closure which after committal* would be required by section 3 of *the 1996 Act, that is, disclosure of* material which in the prosecutor's opinion might undermine the case for the prosecution.

However, to the extent that a defendant or his solicitor chose to reveal what he would normally only disclose in his defence statement the prosecutor might in advance give the secondary disclosure which such a revelation would trigger, so whereas no difficulty would arise in relation to disclosing material of the type referred to in (a), (b), (c), above, and his Lordship accept*ed that such material should be dis*closed, the disclosure of material of *the type referred to in (d) above* would depend very much on what *the defendant chose to reveal about* his case.

7 *What was not required was a full* blown common law discovery at *the pre-committal stage.*

Although the 1996 Act had not abolished pre-committal *discovery* the provisions of the 1996 Act taken as a whole were such as to require that the common law obligations in relation to the pre-*committal* period be radically recast in the way his Lordship indicated.

8 Within the framework outlined, his Lordship accepted Mr Turner's submissions that even before committal a responsible prosecutor should be asking himself what if any immediate disclosure, justice and fairness required him to make in the particular circumstances of the case.

Very often the answer would be none, and rarely if at all should the prosecutor's answer to that continuing piece of self- examination be the subject matter of dispute in this court. If the matter did have to be ventilated it should, save in very ex*ceptional circumstances* be before a trial judge.

Mr Justice Blofeld agreed.

Solicitors: Clarke Kiernan, Tonbridge; Crown Prosecution Service, Maidstone.

Directions supplement new civil rules

Practice Directions (Civil Procedure Rules)

Practice directions supplementing the Civil Procedure Rules (SI 1998 *No 3132) (Civil Procedure* (Sweet and Maxwell (1999)) come into *force on April 26, 1999.*

They apply to civil litigation in *the Queen's Bench Division* and the Chancery Division of the High *Court and to litigation in county* courts other than family proceed*ings. Some of the practice direc*tions apply to appeals to the Court *of Appeal.*

The practice directions were *made on April 23:*

(i) by the Lord Chief Justice as *president of the Queen's Bench Di*vision

(ii) by the Master of the Rolls as president of the civil division of the Court of Appeal

(iii) by the Vice-Chancellor as vice-president of the Chancery Division and

(iv) by the Vice-Chancellor, on behalf of the Lord Chancellor, pursuant to section 5 of the Civil Procedure Act 1997.

The listed practice directions replace previous practice directions relating to civil litigation in the relevant divisions. However, the Queen's Bench Masters Practice Directions and the Queen's Bench Practice Directions, set out in *The Supreme Court Practice 1999* (volume 2, sections 2A and 2C) were in the course of revision and would, except to the extent that they were *inconsistent with the Civil* Procedure Rules and the practice directions listed herewith, continue to apply for the time being.

The titles of the practice directions and the Civil Procedure Rule Part numbers they supplement are:

Court Offices; and Allocation of Cases to Levels of Judiciary (Part 2)
Striking out a Statement of Case (3)
Forms (4)
Court Documents (5)
Service (6)
How to Start Proceedings - The Claim Form; Consumer Credit Act Claim; Production Centre; and Claims for the Recovery of Taxes (7)
Alternative Procedure for Claims; and How to make Claims in Schedule Rules and other Claims (8)
Acknowledgement of Service (10)
Default Judgment (12)
Admissions (14)
Defence and Reply (15)
Statements of Case (16)
Amendments to Statements of Case (17)
Further Information (18)
Addition and Substitution of Parties (19)
Counterclaims and Other Part 20 Claims (20)
Children and Patients (21)
Statements of Truth (22)
Applications (23)
The Summary Disposal of Claims (24)
Interim Injunctions; Interim *Payments; and Accounts and In*quiries (25)
*Case Management - Prelimi*nary Stage: Allocation and Re-allocation (26)
Small Claims Track (27)
The Fast Track (28)
The Multi-track (29)
Transfer (30)
Disclosure and Inspection (31)
Written Evidence (32)
Civil Evidence Act 1995 (33)
Depositions and Court Attendance by Witnesses; and Fees for Examiners (34)
Experts and Assessors (35)
Offers to Settle and Payments into Court (36)
Miscellaneous Provisions about Payments into Court (37)
Miscellaneous Provisions Relating to Hearings; and Court Sittings (39)
Accounts, Inquiries etc; Judgments and Orders; and Structured Settlements (40)
Provisional Damages (41)
Change of Solicitor (42)
Practice Direction about Costs (43 to 48)
Contentious Probate Proceedings; Applications under the Companies Act 1985 and the Insurance Companies Act 1982; Technology and Construction Court; Commercial Court; Patents etc; Admiralty; Arbitrations; and Mercantile Courts and Business Lists (49)
Transitional Arrangements (51)
Practice Directions to supplement Schedules 1 and 2 to the Civil Procedure Rules 1998: Service Out of the Jurisdiction - Order 11 of the Rules of the Supreme Court; Sale, etc of Land by Order of the Court; Conveyancing Counsel of the Court - Order 31 of the Rules of the Supreme Court; Committal Applications - Order 52 of the Rules of the Supreme Court and Order 29 of the County Court Rules; Application for Judicial Review - Order 53 of the Rules of the Supreme Court; Application for Writ of Habeas *Corpus - Order 54 of the Rules of* the Supreme Court

Other Practice Directions: Court of Appeal (brought into effect by *the Master of the Rolls on April 19*): Protocols; Insolvency Proceedings; *Directors Disqualification Proceed*ings; The Use of the Welsh Lan*guage in Cases in the Civil Courts* in Wales; Chancery Division Prac*tice Directions (Sections C and D* of the Chancery Guide).

Appeal practice in single document

Practice Direction for the Court of Appeal (Civil Division)

The consolidation by the Court of Appeal of all its principal practice *directions would greatly improve* the accessibility of information *about civil appeals by ensuring* that court users and judges need re*fer to only one document for direc*tions or guidance.

Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, so stated on April 19 when, sitting in the Court of Appeal with Lord Justice Auld and Lord Justice Mummery, he handed down the 65-page document due to come in to force on April 26, 1999.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the Court of Appeal had taken another step in the process of modernising the civil jus*tice system. It had consolidated all* its principal practice directions, with some minor amendments, into one single document.

All individual civil division practice directions previously in force would be superseded by this practice direction. That would greatly improve the accessibility of information about civil appeals.

The consolidation of existing practice directions would also facilitate the review of the current rules *on civil appeals, in particular,* Order 59 of the Rules of the Supreme *Court, which had not yet been fully* incorporated into the new Civil Procedure Rules.

Revised rules and practice direc*tions for appeals would be imple*mented early next year as part of the second phase of *the civil justice* reforms.

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
5,454.90	Allied Domecq	521	+ 23	5.9	12.5
190.10	Bulmer (HP)	360	+ 31	4.2	16.1
11.19	Burn Stewart	18¾	+ 1¼		
23,577.60	Diageo†	689	+ 52	2.7	17.1
77.90	Glenmorangie A	572½		2.5	15.5
326.00	Highland Dist	244	- 3½	3.9	11.5
6.49	Merydew W	24½	- 1		

BANKS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
30,388.10	ABN-AMRO	1428¾	+ 71¼	2.7	18.1
19,536.30	Abbey Nat†	1378	- 7	2.6	19.0
5,226.80	Alliance & Leict	895	- 11½	2.7	16.4
8,563.00	Allied Irish	994	- 28½	2.4	21.2
7,615.80	Aus New Z	494¾	+ 19	4.2	...
79,208.10	Bank America	4578½	+ 159¾		
11,184.80	Bank Scotland	902	- 15	1.3	27.1

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

CONSTRUCTION

DISTRIBUTORS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
33.90	European Mtr	83	+ 5½	9.7	5.8
13.80	Fife Group	66½	+ ½	1.8	
129.00	Finelist Grp	156½	+ 25	5.8	5.8
13.80	Glencheston†	47¾	+ 1½	5.0	5.5
9.21	Greenwgst	103½	+ 1	3.9	7.9
28.40	HR Owen†	166	- 1½	6.0	6.9
257.60	Headlam	376	+ 19½	2.3	
4.06	Holders Tech†	101½	- 1½	6.9	...
23.80	ISA Intl	45	+ 2	2.2	9.8
800.10	Inchcape	151½	+ 9	7.7	23.2
6.92	Jacks (Wm)	63½	- 2	10.4	
958.30	Kwik-Fit	535½	+ 2½	1.4	23.7
561.80	Lex Service†	488½	+ 4½	4.0	10.7
25.20	Lookers†	75½	- 3	10.9	5.7
191.20	Menzies (John)	339	+ 3	4.6	9.0
9.12	Middlesex	1½	...	...	...
14.00	Midstates	26¾	+ 1½	1.8	8.4
24.40	Norcain	226	+ 7½	4.3	9.7
51.30	Northamber†	148½		3.0	8.1
135.10	Partco†	185	+ 7½	5.4	11.3
105.20	Pendragon†	173	+ 5	6.9	7.8
37.30	Perry Gp	142	- 2	7.0	
679.00	Premier Farnell	258	- 4½	3.7	15.3
28.70	Quicks Group†	75½	- 5½	10.6	...
5.12	REA	56	- 5	7.8	36.4
2.21	Reece	1½			
11.30	Ring	28½		5.6	7.8
9.40	Roncon	1	+ ½		...
3.12	Ross Gp	2½	- ½	...	6.3

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MEDIA

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

PHARMACEUTICALS

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of: 5% 3%

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

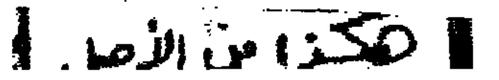
SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

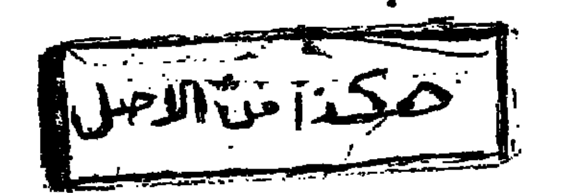
TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET







RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY
Interims: SBS Group. **Finals:** Caldwell Investments, Ivernia West, PPL Therapeutics, BATM. **Economic statistics:** G7 finance ministers, central bank governors meeting, Washington.

TOMORROW
Interims: Aberdeen Asset Management, Phytopharm, WPP Group (Q1). **Finals:** Alexandra, MSB International, Morgan Grenfell Latin American. **Economic statistics:** February global, March non-EU trade; Confederation of British Industry April industrial trends; G10 meeting, Washington.

WEDNESDAY
Interims: Arcadia, Carrs Milling Industries, Fibernet Group. **Finals:** ACC Bank, Buckland Inns, Ryan Hotels, SEET, Shiloh. **Economic statistics:** Q1 mortgage repossessions; UK auction of £500 million 4.125 per cent 2030 index-linked gilts.

THURSDAY
Interims: British American Tobacco (Q1), Connaught, WH Smith, Unilever (Q1). **Finals:** Chiroscience Group, Linton Park, SVB Holdings, S&U. **Economic statistics:** British Bankers' Association March mortgage lending.

FRIDAY
Interims: none scheduled. **Finals:** none scheduled. **Economic statistics:** Nationwide April house price survey.

EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.57	2.39
Austria Sch	21.86	20.20
Belgium Fr	64.36	59.40
Canada $	2.509	2.321
Cyprus Cyp £	0.9204	0.8489
Denmark Kr	11.86	10.97
Egypt	5.72	5.11
Finland Mkk	9.57	8.82
France Fr	10.42	9.64
Germany Dm	3.129	2.887
Greece Dr	520	481
Hong Kong $	13.34	12.14
Iceland	130	110
Indonesia	17506	12506
Ireland Pt	1.2487	1.1597
Israel Shk	6.89	6.23
Italy Lira	3112	2875
Japan Yen	208.04	190.51
Malta	0.680	0.621
Netherlds Gld	3.532	3.237
New Zealand $	3.08	2.84
Norway Kr	13.15	12.21
Portugal Esc	316.53	294.50
S Africa Rd	10.50	9.54
Spain Pta	263.79	245.00
Sweden Kr	14.29	13.19
Switzerland Fr	2.584	2.386
Turkey Lira	636860	594529
USA $	1.721	1.578

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

COMPANIES  MICHAEL CLARK

Net fervour surrounds WH Smith

WH SMITH: The recent strong performance in the share price owes more to the group's involvement in the Internet than to any views on current trading.

Since the start of the year, the price has risen from a low of 477p to close on Friday at 728½p. Even so, the Internet Bookshop, which it bought last year for almost £10 million, is only likely to contribute £6 million to overall sales, albeit double the £3 million achieved last time.

SG Securities is forecasting a profits setback when interim numbers are published on Thursday. It is forecasting pretax profits of £98 million, which compares with a pro forma £128 million last time. These figures are struck after disposals, including the sale of the Virgin Our Price music retail business to Richard Branson for £145 million, as well as cash handouts to shareholders.

Total book sales are likely to be up about 5 per cent providing the main driving force for group profits. However brokers will no doubt be interested to learn from the retailer about the current state of play regards the rest of the group's launch of its on-line Internet service.

Earnings are expected to come in at about 27p, paving the way for a dividend of 5.9p.



Richard Handover, chief executive of WH Smith, is expected to announce a profits setback

ALLIED DOMECQ: There will be little for shareholders to cheer when the drinks and food giant publishes interim results on Thursday.

BT Alex Brown, the broker, is forecasting a downturn in pretax profits for the first six months of 6 per cent to £301 million with earnings a share declining 2 per cent to 20.9p.

Graeme Eadie, at BTAB, blames the setback on a slowdown in the spirits division and a disastrous performance, as highlighted in its recent trading update, from its retail division, which includes the Firkin pub chain and Dunkin' Donuts. Sales of spirits have suffered from the economic downturn in markets such as South-East Asia.

Recent figures from the spirits industry showed whisky exports down by more than 8 per cent, to their lowest level for 15 years.

Some recovery in spirits is forecast for later this year but it is unlikely to be translated into earnings growth at Allied. Shareholders will be keen to hear the company's latest views on a possible demerger.

UNILEVER: First-quarter results from the Anglo-Dutch food and household products group are unlikely to create much of a stir. David Lang, analyst with Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, says the first quarter is traditionally quiet and the least important to the group.

He is forecasting a downturn in pre-tax profits of about 7 per cent from £691 million to £600 million at constant currency rates and before exceptionals. The results will reflect the downturn in economic activity on world markets, such as Latin America and Russia. Germany and Italy will also have provided a dull trading backdrop.

In addition, profits will have been held back by increased marketing spend in both North America and Europe following various product launches and relaunches. To that can also be added a shorter trading period than last year.

"It has been a much tougher economic environment in the first quarter compared with last year," says Mr Lang.

Coupled with this, the group has also had to contend with a drop in investment income because of lower interest rates and a rise in costs.

ARCADIA: Few surprises are anticipated when the clothing retailer unveils interim results on Wednesday, in the wake of its dramatic profits warning three weeks before Christmas and subsequent trading update in January.

Ashley Thomas, retail analyst at SG Securities, the broker, says conditions remain tough for the clothes retailers as highlighted by recent disappointing numbers from Debenhams. There are few signs of any sustained improvement on the horizon.

He is forecasting a drop in pretax profits from £50 million to £26.2 million, but remains hopeful that the dividend will be maintained at 4.7p.

Arcadia was the first of the big retailers to highlight the problems faced on the high street, so brokers will be paying close attention to any comments on current trading from the management.

Mr Thomas expects sales density to be down about 2 per cent with gross margins showing a decline of 1.5 per cent. But the group will have made a serious effort to keep costs under control.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Search for a soft landing

Last week's rash of statistics seemed to convince much of the City that the UK is comfortably heading for a soft landing and that further interest rates cuts are unnecessary. However, there still remains serious doubts about the health of the manufacturing sector and the country's trade performance, with both issues coming under the spotlight this week.

Tomorrow's trade data, in particular, are likely to provide a firm reminder that with the pound remaining at stubbornly high levels, the deficit will continue to act as a substantial drag on the economy for some time. MMS International, the economics consultancy, forecasts that while the global trade gap in February will narrow from the January record of £2.8 billion, it is set to remain at high levels of £2.3 billion. The non-EU trade deficit is poised to widen again to about £1.8 billion, suggesting that the trend of large deficits is likely to continue.

Also on Tuesday, the Confederation of British Industry will release its March industrial trends survey. The last couple of surveys have pointed to a modestly improving trend in the sector. Analysts are looking for a bigger bounce-back in March as evidence that manufacturers may return to growth during the second half of this year.

Abroad, the main focus of interest will be US first-quarter GDP figures on Friday. The heady 6.0 per annualised rate recorded at the end of last year has sparked fears that the Federal Reserve will be forced to raise rates. Slower first-quarter growth — MMS forecasts an annualised rate of 3.2 per cent — should calm rate fears although the GDP chain price index, a measure of inflation, is expected to rise from 0.8 per cent to 1.3 per cent.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Allied Domecq, WH Smith; Hold Corporate Sevices, Cala, Savilles; Sell Nestor Healthcare, JJB Sports. *The Sunday Telegraph*: Buy Brent International, Hercules, SFI Group, Tate & Lyle; Hold Capital Industries, Merant; Sell Arcadia. *The Observer*: Buy Hay & Robertson; Hold BICC. *Sunday Express*: Buy Centrica, Inchcape, Persimmon; Hold Hepworth, Howle, Reckitt & Colman.

The Rubin factor puts Wall Street on edge

FROM ADAM JONES IN NEW YORK

ROBERT RUBIN, the US Treasury Secretary, is adored as one of the architects of America's stock market boom. Now there are fears that he will resign.

Alongside Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, Mr Rubin provided the safe hands that ensured the US bull market survived last year's international financial crisis, as well as protracted attempts to impeach President Clinton. It helps that Mr Rubin is a Wall Street insider.

Before he joined the Clinton Administration, Mr Rubin was co-chairman of Goldman Sachs, the investment bank due to float later this year. Although rich, Mr Rubin, a trim 60-year-old, knows that he has missed out on a lot more money by going into politics.

The float will leave the top four Goldman executives with stakes worth between $136 million (£84 million) and $227 million each. To ensure no conflict of interest when he left, Mr Rubin used a "blind trust" to convert his stake in Goldman into a fixed income stream and he thus misses out on the share bonanza.



Robert Rubin is seen as an architect of US shares' boom

At a gathering organised by *New Yorker* magazine last week, Mr Rubin revealed that President Clinton teases him over the timing of his departure from Goldman. There has, for two years, been on-off speculation about Mr Rubin leaving government. The rumours have recently focused on his wife's alleged dislike of Washington, on the ending of Mr Clinton's impeachment trial and on Mr Rubin's admission that one academic post he has been offered intrigues him.

Mr Rubin sidesteps the question and scoffs at suggestions that the Dow Jones industrial average could fall by up to 1,000 points if he went. "Absolute baloney," he says, adding that the last time there was fevered talk of his departure, the Dow fell by all of two points.

Mr Rubin has breakfast or lunch weekly with Alan Greenspan and Larry Summers, Deputy Treasury Secretary and his likely successor. The meetings have been characterised by *Time* magazine as "the committee to save the world". Mr Rubin prefers to portray them as slightly geeky affairs. "Most people don't find things like yield curves amusing — we have all kinds of jokes about the yield curve," he says.

Mr Rubin's part in cutting the US budget deficit has been crucial to the Clinton Administration's economic success. He has also been praised for persuading Western banks to reschedule Korean debt in 1997, stopping a messy default. Mr Rubin says that the world's financial crisis is not over, but dodges questions on the sustainability of US economic growth, since any comment is likely to be over-interpreted.

Huge gains on Wall Street have fostered greed, envy and a guilty fear that a bubble is about to burst. The Rubin factor is one more possible trigger.

Terranova fight set to ignite

BY ROBERT COLE
CITY CORRESPONDENT

THE muted battle for Terranova, the prepared foods business demerged from Hillsdown Holdings last year, is expected to spring to life this week.

Unigate, the food and dairy group chaired by Ian Martin, has offered 125p a share, or £228 million, for the business. Terranova is today expected to issue a hard-hitting defence of its plan to stay independent. It is also thought that if Unigate decides to raise its offer, it will do so this week.

Since Unigate bid last month, Terranova shares — now 138½p — have traded well above the bid price, indicating that the stock market believes that either Unigate will raise its offer or that one or more alternative bidders will emerge.

Under Takeover Code rules, Terranova has until today to publish new information. Also, under the Code, Unigate has until next Monday to increase its offer. However, since that is a Bank Holiday, it is thought that if Unigate is to raise its offer it will do so this week. Unigate has reported acceptances for 5.6 per cent of the shares so far.

Tie-up of First Leisure and Cannons expected

BY DOMINIC WALSH

THE consolidation of the health and fitness club sector is expected to gather pace in the next few weeks amid speculation that Cannons Group and First Leisure are discussing a tie-up.

Cannons, which recently changed its name from Vardon, is also known to have been looking at Pinnacle Leisure, which recently pulled a £70 million flotation and may consider a trade sale.

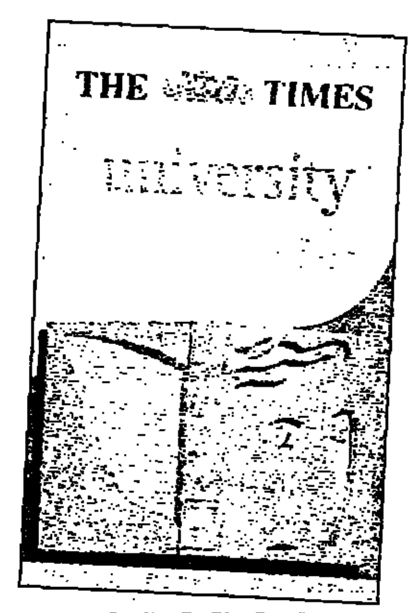
First Leisure has been the subject of speculation ever since it announced in January that it was in talks with third parties over a range of "strategic initiatives".

Last week the company paid £13 million to buy out the minority shareholders in one of its health and fitness businesses, fuelling suggestions that it was parcelling the division up for disposal.

It is not clear what form the proposed deal with Cannons would take or where it would leave Michael Grade, the First Leisure chairman. Nor is it clear what would happen to the group's bars, nightclubs and family entertainment centres.

Further consolidation of the sector was predicted last week at a conference on the health and fitness market organised by Close Brothers Corporate Finance. It was Close Brothers that advised Vardon on its acquisitions last year of the Harbour Club and Cannons businesses as well as the disposal of its bingo and attractions arms.

Neither Cannons nor First Leisure would comment on a possible deal yesterday.



NET PROFIT$
www.times-money.co.uk

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US Dollar
1.6169 (+0.0025)
Euro
0.6580 (−0.0052)
Exchange index
104.2 (+0.7)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
4025.4 (+4.3)
FTSE 100
6428.0 (+7.4)
New York Dow Jones
10689.67 (+195.78)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
16923.25 (+71.67)

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

ELITE LINEN SERVICES LIMITED
Registered Number: 3028450. Nature of Business: Laundry. Trade Classification: 42. Date of appointment of Administrative Receivers: 12th April 1999. Name of person appointing the Administrative Receivers: Auburn Trading Limited. Joint Administrative Receivers: K D Goodman, FCA and K P Barry, FCA (Office Holder Nos: 2407 and 6741) of Leonard Curtis, One Great Cumberland Place, London W1H 8LE.

B&R SHOES LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of B&R Shoes Limited will be held at 1 & 2 Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn, London WC1R 5BZ, on Friday the 30th day of April 1999 at 3:00 p.m. for the purposes provided for in Sections 98, 100 and 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986.
A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection, free of charge, during business hours on the 28th and 29th days of April 1999 at the offices of BN Jackson Norton, 1 & 2 Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn, London, WC1R 5BZ.
The meeting may be requested to consider a resolution agreeing to the basis of the Liquidator's remuneration. To assist creditors in making an informed decision, a copy of the creditors' guide to Liquidators' fees as detailed in the Society of Practitioners of Insolvency, Statement of Insolvency Practice No. 9, is enclosed.
Dated this 20th day of April 1999.
By Order of the Board.
A Butwick, DIRECTOR

Incotaal Limited (IN LIQUIDATION)
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with the provisions of Rule 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that a first and final dividend will be paid within a period of four months from the last date of proving. The last date for creditors to prove claims in this liquidation is 19 May 1999.
Creditors of the above named Company should send their addresses, descriptions and full particulars of their debts or claims to K.D. Goodman, FCA Leonard Curtis, One Great Cumberland Place, London W1H 8LE. Under Rule 11.3(2) a Liquidator is not obliged to deal with claims lodged after the date of proving.
DATED THIS 21st day of April 1999
K.D. GOODMAN, LIQUIDATOR

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
HAMLETS MANAGEMENT LTD
16-20 Ealing Road,
Wembley, HA0 4TL
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at the offices of Single & Company, Chartered Accountants, 6-7 Queen Street, London, EC4N 1SP on 5th May 1999 at 11.30 a.m., for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act.
A list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at the offices of Single & Company, Chartered Accountants, 6-7 Queen Street, London, EC4N 1SP between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. on Friday, 30th April 1999 and Tuesday, 4th May 1999.
DATED: 16th April 1999
N V Patel
Director

No. 002639 of 1999
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF HENDERSON TR PACIFIC INVESTMENT TRUST PLC
- and -
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 15 April 1999 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the cancellation of the share premium account of the above-named Company amounting to £100,572,521.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 5th day of May 1999.
ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said cancellation of share premium account should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
Dated the 22nd day of April 1999.
LINKLATERS & PAINES (OTL)
One Silk Street
London EC2Y 8HQ
Solicitors for the above-named Company

Notice of Appointment of Joint Administrative Receivers [illegible]

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
[illegible]

TRUSTEE ACTS

[illegible]

CORPORATE PROFILE: Dixons

THE FACTS

Market capitalisation: £5.7 billion.
Annual sales: £2.77 billion.
Pre-tax profits: £218.7 million.
Employees: 21,000
Business: UK-based retailing group specialising in selling high-technology consumer electronics, personal computers, domestic appliances and photographic and telecoms equipment.

THE BOARD

Sir Stanley Kalms, chairman since 1971, has been responsible for the development of the group from a one-store, family business. He now leaves most of the running of the business to **John Clare**, chief executive. He joined in 1985 as marketing director. He became managing director a year later, group managing director in 1992 and chief executive in 1994.

Mark Souhami, deputy chairman, has been with the group for 29 years. He was appointed managing director of the retail division in 1973 and group managing director from 1986-92. He is also chairman of the British Retail Consortium.

Ian Livingstone, finance director since 1998, was appointed to the board in 1997. Aged 35 and by far the youngest of the Dixons directors, he qualified as a chartered accountant with Arthur Andersen.

David Hamid, who joined in 1986, is the managing director of Dixons group commercial services. He is responsible for Mastercare, the after-sales side of the business.

David Gilbert, the managing director of Currys, joined the company in 1981. He has worked throughout the group as operations director and marketing director.

The non-executive directors are made up of **John Curry**, the executive chairman of Acal, **Sir Tim Chessells**, who is also chairman of the Legal Aid board, and **Karen Cook**, the co-head of UK corporate finance at Schroders, the merchant bank.

DIXONS has already claimed its place on the list of wonder stocks of 1999. By mid-April, its shares had risen nearly 100 per cent in value since the beginning of the year to the dizzy heights of nearly £16.

Of course, it is Freeserve, the free Internet access service Dixons launched late last year, rather than its retail business, that has spurred the share price. Dixons has now asked its bankers, Credit Suisse First Boston, and Cazenove & Co, the brokers, to look into a multibillion pound flotation of Freeserve. They could come up with a valuation of somewhere between £2 billion and £3 billion.

The wind has rather been taken out of the Dixons sails in the past fortnight. Doubts about how to achieve a fair valuation of Freeserve, which is set to break even only this year and to make a small profit next year, plus the stalling of the Wall Street technology stock rally, knocked its share price off its peak. But those who bought at the beginning of the year will still be flush.

If Freeserve were somehow to be split off from Dixons, through a partial sale, flotation or joint venture, it would have the benefit of giving the market a chance to evaluate the core retailing business properly. It is doing well, but the fuss over Freeserve has left it in the shadows.

John Clare, group chief executive, points out that, although there has already been a huge share price spike this year, the group has actually been on a reasonably steady upward curve since 1994. Windfall spending from building society conversions gave a huge boost to sales two years ago, and they subsequently fell back. Since then, trade has gone back on to a smooth upward track.

The turning point for Dixons's fortunes came when it sold its American retailing business in 1993, six years after buying it. Silo, or Your Electronic Superstore, as it was renamed, was an unmitigated disaster for Dixons. Mr Clare remembers it as a "nightmare".

Withdrawing from the States cost Dixons £300 million in all, and a great deal of credibility. Since then, Dixons has not made any overseas acquisitions, except in the Irish Republic. "When we came back from America, we had our tails between our legs and said we'd focus back on the UK. The strategy has delivered," Mr Clare says.

The Freeserve venture is a big step away from the British high streets and retail parks for Dixons. Its success could encourage other such strategic leaps and this could lead to some expansion overseas again. America was a failure, and if Dixons were to try expanding in western Europe, it would quickly come up against Kingfisher, which has a large European electricals business built around Darty, the French market leader, and Comet in the UK.

Dixons and Kingfisher went through a period, ten to fifteen years ago, when their fates were closely intertwined. Dixons made a £1.8 billion bid for Kingfisher in 1986, when it was still named Woolworth Holdings. When that failed, by way of consolation, Dixons bought Silo. Spotting that the acquisition had been a mistake, Kingfisher struck back with a £568 million hostile bid in 1989.

When that bid failed in turn, Kingfisher consoled itself with the purchase of Darty. Mr Clare says that he would have loved to have bought Darty, a company that he greatly admires, but Dixons was in no position to do so at the time.

Looking at the Dixons position in the UK, there is little doubt that markets are going in its favour. Lots of new hi-tech products are coming on to the market in the next three years, while others will move into the mainstream. Great things are expected of such things as digital television, mini-discs and DVD.

"In the early Eighties there was a technology bandwagon. From the second half of the Eighties there was nothing new. We are now standing at the edge of an era when we will get growth," Mr Clare says.

Verdict, the retail consultancy, believes that Dixons, the market leader in the UK, should be a beneficiary of the explosion in new products, as it has a format to match each growth area. In personal computers it has PC World, in telecommunications it has The Link, in games it has @Jakarta.

Sir Stanley Kalms, whose father founded Dixons with a photographic studio in 1937, is still chairman of the company, and remains as enthusiastic about new developments as ever. Now aged 67, he works out of the Dixons central London office, while Mr Clare runs the group from the Hemel Hempstead headquarters.

When Sir Stanley took Dixons on to the London Stock Exchange in 1962 it was still a photographic business, with 16 branches. It was not until five years later that Japanese audio and hi-fi units appeared in the Dixons range. Expansion continued, and in 1984 the Currys Group was acquired. It added 613 retail outlets to the group, together with Mastercare, the electrical appliance service organisation.

The Dixons conundrum is that it has overcome its American mistake to become phenomenally successful, the stock market loves it to pieces, but the general public does not. Customers flock to Dixons shops, but on the whole have not taken them to their hearts.

Mr Clare acknowledges this, but says that Dixons is doing its best, and has to cope with some formidable difficulties. He admits: "I'd like to establish a reputation and image with the consumer that is better than the one we've got. We're the best regarded in the sector, but not as highly regarded as other sectors.

"The main reason is the products. We sell products that go wrong and that people have difficulty in understanding." Although staff turnover is not bad for the sector, at about 20 per cent per annum, the churn of sales staff can cause problems.

As so many of the products sold by Dixons involve servicing at some point, it also sells extended warranties. It is always chary of saying how much money it makes on these warranties — another factor that has aroused public mistrust.

Customers are also constantly suspicious that Dixons' prices are unfairly high. Despite the company's protestations that it operates on very low margins, Peter Mandelson, when he was Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, drew the Office of Fair Trading's attention to accusations that Dixon's was overcharging.

Dixons and the OFT have had one meeting to discuss the issue, and nothing more has been said. There is no inquiry, but nor is there anything to say that the company has been exonerated. Given the Government's enthusiasm for defending the rights of the consumer, there seems a reasonable chance that the competition regulators will eventually turn their full attention to the electricals market, particularly personal computers.

Dixons has certainly built itself a very strong position within its markets. Verdict reckons that it has grown its share of the entire electricals market from 17.3 per cent in 1994 to 27 per cent. The move by Asda and Tesco into electrical retailing has had no noticeable impact, and Mr Clare is confident that neither supermarket operator actually makes money on it. "Electrical retailing is a very easy market in which to secure sales, but it is very difficult to make money," he says.

Integrity Works praised Dixons' "long-established and progressive approach to ethical expression," adding: "Starting at the top and through its sponsorship of a chair in business ethics, it has spelt out that in its view 'good business begings and ends with integrity'."

Crisp Consulting said that Sir Stanley's pay of £850,000 a year is well under par for his long experience, and the other directors are paid reasonably.

SARAH CUNNINGHAM









Sir Stanley Kalms, chairman, left, and John Clare, chief executive, have seen shares in Dixons, the electrical retailer, reach nearly £16 this year, boosted by Freeserve, the free Internet access service that was launched last year. With the growth in Internet stocks, Dixons is now considering floating Freeserve

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

"The dynamic growth at Dixons in the past year has come from The Link and PC World — both formats that Dixons has created. In doing that, Dixons has shown that it is very aware of where its market is. With Freeserve, it saw where its target was moving and targeted it. Dixons has chronically underrated management. John Clare, in particular, is a very astute businessman and reader of consumer trends. The caveat is that there is an increasing threat of an in-depth regulatory review into just how Dixons makes it profits."

Nathan Cockerell, retail analyst, BT Alex Brown

"Dixons is in the happy position of being the dominant retailer in its market. It is also in the most exciting market that there is."

Richard Hyman, chairman, Verdict

OUR VERDICT

Ethical Expression[1]	8/10
Fat-cat quotient[2]	10/10
Financial record	6/10
Share performance	10/10
Attitude to staff	7/10
Strength of brand	8/10
Innovation	9/10
Annual report	6/10
City star rating	7/10
Future prospects	9/10
Total	80/100

[1]Ethical expression is evaluated by Integrity Works. The fat-cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay practice scores highest, is provided by [2]Crisp Consulting

Crystal Palace's Goldberg loses £7m as companies are liquidated

BY JASON NISSÉ



JUSTIN WILLIAMS

Mark Goldberg lost £22 million when Crystal Place football club went into administration

MARK GOLDBERG, the 35-year-old computer recruitment entrepreneur who presided over the collapse of Crystal Palace football club, has lost more than £7 million in a series of business ventures that have been placed into liquidation in the past few weeks.

In addition to losing an estimated £22 million when Crystal Palace went into administration last month, Mr Goldberg has suffered huge losses in a series of badly run business ventures.

The losses incurred by Mr Goldberg this year will have more than wiped out the money that he made from selling a 12 per cent stake in MSB International, the recruitment firm that he founded, for £23.8 million last year.

Mr Goldberg is almost certain to sell his remaining million shares in MSB in the next few weeks. MSB shares rose 29p to 220½p on Friday, ahead of the company reporting its full-year results tomorrow.

The figures are expected to show MSB thriving without Mr Goldberg — who resigned from the company last July — and reporting profits, before exceptional costs and tax, of £11.5 million.

All in all, eight companies controlled by Mr Goldberg have been placed in liquidation over the past seven weeks. These include Data Scanning, a technology start-up venture, Lands Development Corporation, a property company, and various sports management companies.

The liquidators, David Rubin and Partners, estimate that Mr Goldberg has lost £7.3 million in these ventures. The losses of other creditors are estimated at between £1.8 million and £2 million, and the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise are believed to have lost about £500,000.

Mr Rubin said that it appears that the companies had been "run by remote control". He said that Mr Goldberg had been "astonishingly naive for a businessman".

The losses this year do not represent the first time that Mr Goldberg has been in financial difficulty. In 1991 he presided over the collapse of two ventures — MSB Appointments (London), which was liquidated with a deficit of £873,000, and Aquamarine Hotel (Brighton), which had a deficit of £306,000.

As a result of this, Mr Goldberg faced bankruptcy over debts he had incurred totalling £1.07 million. He agreed an Individual Voluntary Arrangement (IVA) with his creditors, by which they were paid only £30,000 to clear his debts.

This IVA was disclosed in the prospectus for MSB's flotation, but is not well known. Simon Paterson, of Moore Stephens Booth White, administrator of Crystal Palace, admitted that he was not aware of the IVA when he took on the appointment at the First Division football club, but that he had since been told about it. He is working on a plan to restructure the club's finances so that it can resume combat in the First Divison next season.

Mr Goldberg — who last week charged Crystal Palace fans £5 each to attend a public meeting about the club and has hired a bodyguard — was unavailable for comment.

Search for top valuation spurs technology firms to look for US listings

BY CHRIS AYRES

MANY of Britain's fastest-growing technology companies are considering abandoning their homeland to float on the Nasdaq stock market in the US, authoritative research out today shows.

The research, carried out by Deloitte & Touche, the chartered accountants, to find Britain's 50 fastest-growing technology companies, found that many businesses felt they would achieve significantly higher valuations in the US than in London.

Deloitte's findings will once again highlight the relative lack of financial research into the technology sector in Britain, and the reluctance of British investors to embrace high-risk, high-reward ventures.

In spite of this, however, Deloitte found that London markets were slowly becoming more attractive to technology companies, thanks to the increasingly high profile of businesses such as Freeserve, the free Internet access company expected to join the London stock market this summer.

At the top of Deloitte's Fast 50 list is Eidos, the computer games company behind the hit title *Tomb Raider*, which is currently being made into a Hollywood film.

Eidos was founded in 1990 by Simon Streater, a former Ministry of Defence software engineer, and turned into a commercial success by Ian Livingstone, one of the founders of the Games Workshop retail chain, and Charles Cornwall, a South African corporate financier. The company, which is quoted on Nasdaq as well as in London, achieved astonishing sales growth of 29,637 per cent between 1995 and 1997.

In second place is Data Discoveries, an Edinburgh software company, which saw sales grow by 7,117 per cent during the same period. The company produces business software that can confirm the names and addresses of customers.

Behind Data Discoveries is Network Disaster Recovery, an IT company founded only five years ago that helps its clients to guard against their computer systems being disrupted by fire, flood, sabotage or faults. The company saw sales grow by 3,656 per cent between 1995 and 1997.

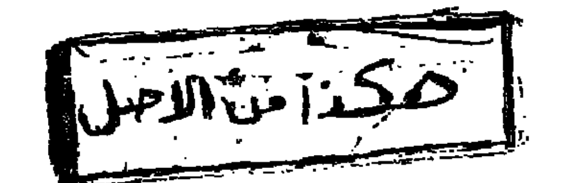
William Touche, the lead partner for telecoms, media and technology at Deloitte, said the message from his firm's research was one of "great optimism". However, he said there was still "a significant funding gap at the development stage" for many companies, and that skilled staff shortages and high staff costs were a problem for many fledgeling technology companies.

He added that the main stimulants for future growth in the technology industry would include the auction of so-called "third generation" mobile phone licences, which will allow mobile phone users to access the Internet at high speeds.

Another major stimulant will be IT spending in Europe by large corporations, he said, which is forecast to grow by 50 per cent to $300 billion (£186 billion) by 2002.







Data contradict official earnings growth figures

By Alasdiar Murray, Economics Correspondent

FRESH doubts about the pace of earnings growth emerged today with new data showing that wage deals in both the manufacturing and service sectors slowed sharply in the first quarter of this year.

The findings contradict the official average earnings data published last week and are likely to reopen the debate about the accuracy of the official data, which were only reinstated last month after a four-month suspension.

The Confederation of British Industry pay bank shows manufacturing pay growth falling to 3.0 per cent in the three months to March 1999 compared with 3.1 per cent in the last quarter of 1998. Service sector wage growth also eased lower, falling to 3.6 per cent in the first quarter compared with 4.4 per cent in December 1998.

In contrast, the official figures showed annual wage growth climbing to 4.6 per cent in the three months to February, after an upwardly revised figure of 4.5 per cent in January.

The ONS blamed the "exceptional" revision on an unexpected late surge of corporate returns. Large bonus payments also seemed to have pushed the overall figures upwards with the annual growth in February alone placed as high as 5 per cent.

Many City analysts seized on the data as evidence that the Bank should now call a halt to its rate-cutting spree. The Bank has repeatedly said that earnings growth above 4.5 per cent is incompatible with its inflation target.

Recent minutes from the Monetary Policy Committee have suggested, however, that the Bank is still not fully convinced of the accuracy of official data and still places high importance on other pay surveys such as the CBI's and its own pay databank.

The CBI said its survey, although the most comprehensive of its kind, was not directly comparable to the official data. It includes a bonus element only if changes to bonus schemes are an integral part of settlements.

Kate Barker, chief economic adviser, said the data still confirmed a lack of inflationary pressures: "With the latest official data indicating a weakening labour market we would expect settlements to decline further over the next few months."

A separate report from the Institute for Manufacturing argues that wage growth could be pushed higher because of the political temptation to offer future large increases in the value of the minimum wage.

The institute says there are doubts over how the mechanism to increase low pay will be used. Its exact details have been left vague. The Government said only that future increases will take into account the "economic circumstances of the time". The institute says: "An obvious danger is that, at some future date, an unreasonably large increase in the minimum wage will be a tempting electoral promise for one or other party."

Smith in China to tackle CD pirates

By Raymond Snoddy
Media Editor

HONG KONG has seen an explosion of CD piracy since the handover of the colony to China, according to Chris Smith, the Culture, Media and Sport Secretary, who is leading a top-level delegation of British television, film and record industry executives to mainland China and Hong Kong this week. He believes Hong Kong, Macao and Eastern Europe are now the worst areas of the world for CD and software piracy.

Before handover an estimated 60 million CDs a year were pirated in Hong Kong. One recent seizure involved 22 million CDs and the capacity of the Hong Kong industry is now one billion CDs a year although not all are counterfeit.

The Culture Secretary hopes to persuade the Hong Kong authorities to involve the police as well as Customs officials in stamping out piracy. Mr Smith will also raise the issue of piracy with the Chinese Government in Beijing because of high levels of CD, software and film piracy in China.

Although the Chinese authorities have been making progress in protecting copyright the total legitimate demand for all CD formats is 46 million units compared with the current estimated capacity of 275 million units.

Mr Smith hopes to open up the Chinese market for British films and television programmes and make it easier to launch British music there. At the moment anyone wanting to sell Western music legitimately in China has to get a number for each individual track from the Ministry of Propaganda.

At the moment China allows less than 70 foreign films to be imported a year, divided roughly half between the US and Europe. Recent hits that have been shown in China include *Titanic* from the US and *Sliding Doors* from the UK.

Few British TV programmes are shown in China. Exceptions include *The Bill* from Pearson Television, largely, Mr Smith said, because it is designed to change attitudes to police and policing in China.



CARLTON

The Bill is one of the few British television programmes to be broadcast in China

Chairman of CRS steps down

Peter Rowbotham, the chairman of Co-operative Retail Services, has stepped down. It is suggested that the move is recognition that the movement needs a fresh leader at a time of change.

A spokesman for Mr Rowbotham hotly rejected claims that the chairman was leaving after disagreeing with Andy Meehan, his chief executive, about strategy.

A successor has not been named, but will come from within the mutual CRS operation. Mr Rowbotham will not be in receipt of compensation for loss of office.

Profit warnings up

MORE than one in ten non-food retailers issued a profit warning in the first quarter of this year as last year's interest rate rises hit sales. Figures from Ernst & Young, the accountancy firm, show that 118 boards in all industries issued warnings, up from 88 in the same quarter of 1998 but down from 126 in the previous three months. The warnings led to an average 18 per cent fall in share price.

Retail site backed

A £100 million retail development in Edinburgh has won detailed planning consent. The consent paves the way for a waterfront shopping and leisure complex with a five-screen cinema, restaurants and a health club. Ocean Terminal will be built by Forth Ports at the Port of Leith, where the Royal Yacht *Britannia* is berthed. Building will start in the next two months, with the opening due in 2001.



ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

1999 High	Low	Mkt Cap (million)	Company	Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1¼	0¾	2.40	10 Grp	1	...	...	...
116½	89½	11.40	AFA Systems	90½	-2	...	...
96½	91½	12.10	AMCO Corp	94	...	7.8	...
127½	93½	6.17	ATA Group	95	...	6.1	7.7
250	175	41.90	Access Plus	248	+3	2.4	19.3
47½	42½	5.61	AdVal Group	42½	...	...	7.3
148½	143½	26.10	Affinity Internet	143½	...	...	...
4	2	2.39	African Gold	2¼	...	...	...
84	61½	27.50	Albemarle & Bd	62	-2	2.0	15.9
44	24	14.40	Allzyme	40½	+10½	...	...
65½	42½	14.20	Ambient Media	59½	...	...	...
130½	92½	5.99	Ambishus Pub Co	95	-2½	...	12.3
97	86½	32.30	Anglo Sibrn Oil	89	...	...	...
108½	88½	2.74	Anglo-Welsh	88½	...	4.2	...
72½	40½	33.00	Antonov	41½	-1½	...	...
87½	62½	16.50	Aortech	81½	+4	...	...
120	85	6.24	Aram Resources	120	...	3.5	45.4
65	65	6.63	Archer Dedicated	65	...	...	...
5½	3½	3.29	Artisan (UK)	4¾	-¼	...	...
552½	350	124.80	Ask Central	550	+15	0.2	35.9
57½	52½	1.03	Athelney Trust	57½	+1¼	2.0	...
8½	4½	11.50	Atlantic Caspian	6½	+¾	...	...
6	6	4.56	Avalon Oil	6	...	...	...
522½	175½	163.00	BATM Adv Comms	522½	+67½	0.6	...
91½	53½	10.90	BCO Technologies	58½	-3	...	...
182½	130	28.70	BGR	181½	+8½	1.3	19.7
1½	1	1.10	Bakery Services	1½	+¼	...	...
2¼	1½	4.25	Beechcroft	2¼	...	3.0	9.2
3¼	2½	5.33	Beaufort	2¾	...	2.5	54.7
36½	34½	5.36	Bickerton	35	...	1.4	33.2
55	48	0.78	Billam	49	...	10.8	...
38½	18½	2.23	Bilston Bttrsea	25	+3½	4.2	10.4
1¼	1	7.08	Birchin Intl	1¼	...	...	15.4
43½	32½	19.20	Birmingham City	38½	...	...	...
11½	3	2.05	Blakes Clothg	3¾	+½	26.7	7.0
30½	30½	1.46	Bognd 'A'	30½	...	3.6	...
96½	84½	12.40	Bond Intl Soft	91½	-1	...	22.2
316	305	2.13	Bowness Leis	305	...	2.5	13.2
22	10¼	8.94	Brancote Hdgs	21½	+8½	...	...
65	60	2.52	Br Bloodstock	60	...	4.2	7.3
10½	4½	0.67	Buckland Invs	5½	...	...	...
8	4	0.03	Buckland Inv Wts	4	...	...	...
11	9	2.46	Bulgin A	9¼	-1	13.5	7.8
165	122	19.50	CA Coutts Hldgs	163½	+1½	2.4	12.2
100	80	5.92	C & B Publishing	80	...	...	6.5
8½	7½	12.40	CCM Distribution	7½	...	...	12.9
72½	72½	3.19	CW Residential	72½	...	2.6	36.5
225	165	9.50	Cafe Inns	190	...	1.8	14.4
45	45	5.54	Caledonian Tst	45	...	...	5.6
10¾	5¼	2.59	Cambridge Min Res	9	-1½	...	...
2½	2	3.38	Cambury Inv	2¼	...	...	35.9
1	0½	0.45	Cambury Inv Wts	0½	...	...	...
44½	29	57.10	Card Clear	40½	-½	0.7	19.1
39½	30½	3.08	Carisbrooke Ship	30½	-6	3.3	...
23	16¼	198.60	Carlisle	17½	...	...	46.1
36	32	1.98	Cassidy Bros	36	+2	8.3	...
6¾	3¼	3.22	Celebrated Group	5¼	+¼	...	...
99½	93½	21.40	Cl Comms(TV)	97½	...	2.7	17.3
49½	40	15.40	Charlton Athl	43½	-1	...	22.0
16½	10¼	15.20	Charterhouse Cms	15¼	...	2.6	12.8
88½	69½	112.00	Chelsea Village	70½	-5	...	45.7
25	20¼	125.40	Chorion	24½	...	0.4	40.3
123½	95¼	40.90	Citadel	123½	+14¾	2.4	15.8
39½	26	6.79	City Gourmets	32½	...	...	...
110	90	0.99	Clan Homes	110	...	...	...
14	8¾	12.40	Coffee Rep	13	+1	...	...
277½	194	33.20	Comino	250	...	1.5	17.6
212½	70	6.67	Computerland UK	72½	...	2.6	8.8
15½	11½	9.52	Concurrent Tech	13½	...	...	...
33	28	7.09	Conister Tst	31½	...	4.4	11.8
185	149½	17.90	Connaught	185	+25½	2.8	14.7
1¾	1	1.95	Corporate Exec	1¼	...	...	...
4¼	1	0.43	Creas Intl	1	...	...	...
113½	111½	5.69	Cresco Intl	111½	-2	...	...
105	77½	1.36	Crown Eye	85	+1	14.7	...
170	72½	3.60	Dawn Til Dusk	75	-21½	5.6	5.7
2¾	2¼	1.56	Deanes	2¼	...	...	3.4
260	230	14.50	Deep Sea Leisure	230	...	...	18.2
5¼	4¼	7.39	Dentmaster	5	...	2.3	11.7
56½	15½	18.70	Desire Petroleum	39½	+11	...	50.9
54½	52½	8.01	Digital Anmtn	54½	+1	...	...
20½	15½	9.72	Dimension Res	15½	-1	...	...
16½	12½	0.11	Dimension Wts	13	...	...	...
19¼	16	2.59	Dinkie Heel	17½	+½	6.9	9.5
89½	80¼	7.53	Delyn Group	86½	...	2.9	14.5
32½	28½	5.50	Dmatek	29¼	...	...	14.9
340	225	22.30	Dobbies Garden	337½	+25	1.5	18.5
22½	19½	2.72	Downlex	22½	...	5.6	10.1
206½	166½	24.30	Dragons Health	202½	-1½	1.5	18.9
2	2	1.71	Drngs of Bath	2	...	...	12.9
1800	395	52.50	Durlacher	1750	+170	...	53.1
38	37½	3.67	Eagle	37½	...	...	...
165	75	23.30	Elec Retail Sys	110	+7½	...	...
80	69	21.50	Enterprises	79	...	6.1	7.6
27½	17	5.94	Epic Group	25½	+2½	...	26.2
40½	25	3.30	Eurasia Mining	25	...	...	...
3¼	2½	4.92	Fairplace Cons	3¼	...	3.6	8.5
422	325	10.90	Farlake	420	...	1.0	17.8
64½	54	11.40	Fayrewood	54½	-1	2.5	9.5
86½	81½	4.33	Fieldens	86½	+5	...	64.9
62½	57½	13.00	Firestone Dmds	57½	...	...	...
225	155	5.33	Flomerics	205	-5	1.6	20.4
82½	62½	7.67	Formscan	68½	+6	4.4	8.7
129½	115½	11.90	Fountain Forestry	125½	+10	9.7	17.8
201	167½	13.30	Furlong Homes	201	+1	3.7	6.1
55½	24½	6.11	Future Int Telep	52¼	+5¾	...	...
183½	133½	15.50	GB Railways	176½	-2½	3.7	9.9
60	50	6.60	GR Hldgs	50	...	2.6	14.5
10½	7¼	14.90	GTL Res	9¼	...	...	...
113½	82½	82.70	Gartland W&B	95	-6½	5.9	5.3
26½	21	35.70	Gold Mns Sard	26	+1¾	...	...
29½	17½	8.61	Golden Prospect	17½	...	...	65.7
26	17½	12.10	Golf Club	25½	...	...	...
157½	111½	26.60	Gooch & Housego	157½	...	1.1	22.0
18½	10½	3.18	Griffin Mining	15	+½	...	...
2¼	2	2.25	Grosmont Hldgs	2¼	...	...	23.5
0½	0½	0.60	Grosmont Hldgs Wts	0½	...	...	...
8¾	7¼	1.93	Grosvenor Ltd	8	...	...	25.5
182	163	47.30	Guiton	178	+½	3.2	12.5
11	3½	4.21	Hansom	11	+3¾	...	53.3
185	133	23.10	Hardy Underwtg	137½	+3½	4.4	7.3
2	1¼	11.80	Hartford	1½	...	...	...
30	28	7.61	Hacas Group	29½	...	...	19.1
82½	67½	3.71	Hat Pin	82½	+4	...	78.3
385	360	7.56	Heavitree	360	...	2.4	17.4
295	290	12.30	Heavitree A	290	...	2.9	14.0
145	62½	8.55	Helicon Pubg	145	...	...	...
85	52½	11.40	Highams Sys	60½	-6	1.7	10.2
94½	87½	8.32	Highland Timber	94½	...	...	...
80½	65½	17.50	Honeycombe Leis	77½	...	...	12.9
125	100	1.94	Hurlingham	121	-4	0.8	...
58½	52½	3.52	Hydro-Dynamic	52½	...	7.4	17.6
30	17	4.68	IES	20	...	...	...
305	205	12.50	I S Solutions	260	+2½	1.5	18.9
737½	512½	150.70	Indpt Energy	575	-10	...	...
66½	51½	11.60	Indpt Radio	65	+2½	...	...
133½	44	32.80	Infobank Intl	131	+10	...	
44½	17½	4.53	Inner Workings	18½	-3	...	...
40½	27½	0.75	Integrd As Mgt	29	...	...	...
107½	39	31.20	Intelligent Env	98½	-4	...	...
487½	402½	24.30	Inter-Alliance	442½	...	...	...
130	108	24.70	Interior Services	118	...	2.7	9.7
115½	107½	5.38	Inter Link Foods	114½	...	1.7	9.7
193½	93½	78.30	Internet Tech	174	-18½	...	...
627½	562½	85.60	Intl Greetings	620	+17½	1.5	17.5
100½	32½	28.50	IOC Intl	91½	-1	...	
425	315	18.40	ITG Group	367½	-10½	...	41.5
262½	205	23.10	JSB Software Tech	243½	-5½	...	...
65½	22½	6.47	James R Knowles	32½	-2½	4.9	...
53	32½	4.62	Jardinerie Ints	52½	+1½	...	14.2
280	222½	18.50	Jennings Bros	250	+10	3.4	11.1
2	1½	2.46	J Lewis Hlord	1¾	...	6.2	12.9
42½	32½	10.70	Jordec	34	...	...	6.8
24	18¼	4.73	Jumbo Intl	24	...	...	41.0
2½	1¼	10.20	Just Group	2¼	-¼	...	...
32½	30½	3.51	Kern River	30½	...	...	...
18½	11½	4.75	Keystone Soft	16½	+1	...	...
8	3		Keystone Wts	7	...	...	...
141½	136½	13.30	Kingfisher Ls	137½	...	1.7	14.0
55	38	30.80	LTG Technologies	38	...	...	7.5
180	95	6.37	Lady in Leisure	108	+6	1.9	9.3
220	178	9.00	Landround	200	+10	2.5	16.6
378	357	25.00	Lawrence	357	...	2.6	11.8
4450	3750	71.20	Lawrie Group	3750	...	2.7	3.8
22½	14½	1.60	Lepco	15	...	...	...
380	303	72.90	Linton Park	370	-8	6.3	4.3
305	305	6.10	Loades	305	...	0.4	...
20	8½	5.40	Loftus Road	9	-1½	...	...
13¼	8¼	4.54	Lond & Edin Pub	13¼	...	...	14.3
75	75	3.98	London Town	75	...	3.1	10.1
45	45	0.45	London Town Wts	45	...	...	...
146½	138½	4.83	Longbridge Intl	146½	...	3.8	...
53½	21½	1.21	Longmead	33½	...	7.5	16.3
1	0¾	1.75	Lotterylong	1	...	...	12.2
0½	0½	0.09	Lotterylong Wts	0½	...	...	...
1	0¾	17.70	MV Sports	1	+¼	...	...
10¼	6¼	9.71	Magnum Power	10¼	+3¼	...	...
432½	267½	57.30	Majestic Wine	415	-7½	1.2	25.0
14½	9	9.83	Mano River UK	14	-½	...	...
5¾	4½	3.75	Manx & O'seas	4¾	...	...	...
35½	32½	4.81	Market Link Pb	32½	...	2.8	10.2
75	65	1.55	Matrix Hlthcare	67½	...	4.4	...
46	42	3.44	Mazaran Leisure	42½	-2	...	...
14¾	10¼	5.89	Mears Group	12½	-¾	3.2	...
4	2¾	16.00	Media Content	2¾	...	...	...
23½	16¼	29.60	Medisys	16½	-¼	...	...
20½	19½	15.00	Megalomedia	20½	+½	1.2	22.8
13½	11½	0.14	Megalomedia Wts	12½	...	...	...
46½	30½	6.06	Meltwears	41½	...	...	...
109½	100½	13.40	Metnor Group	105½	+3	2.0	...
88½	80	4.33	Metrodome	85	...	...	...
129	66½	59.50	Minorplanet	122½	+6	...	...
106½	50½	9.64	Mondas	78½	-7	...	...
287½	230	31.60	Moorepay	270	+12½	2.3	...
73½	50	4.98	Mountcashel	65½	-8	...	5.4
49½	25	6.30	Mulberry Group	30	-3	5.0	...
3	2¾	2.07	Multimedia	3	...	...	...
8¾	7¼	8.25	Murray Financial Corpn	8¼	...	...	...
110½	107½	5.39	NBA Quantum	110	...	...	11.2
9	8	0.59	NECA	8	...	2.5	...
175½	50½	60.70	NMT	154½	+30½	...	...
205	87½	14.20	NRP	190	...	...	46.2
410	165	45.10	Nsb Retail Sys	410	+15	0.5	36.3
155	127	10.30	NWF Grp	131	...	6.4	6.6
145	140	10.20	Nash (Wm)	145	...	5.5	5.6
5¼	3½	3.94	Nat Bldg Mkts	4	...	...	11.0
105	105	2.10	Nat Bldg Prl	105	...	...	...
90	40½	15.00	Netcall	80	+9	...	...
80	80	1.52	Norhomes	80	...	...	24.8
6	1¼	1.20	Nthn Petlm	4	-1½	...	...
60½	45½	2.87	Northstar Sec	45½	...	...	24.7
37½	17½	0.35	Northstar Sec Wts#	17½	...	...	...
27½	27½	13.80	Offshore Tool & Energy	27½	...	...	...
62½	54½	11.40	Old Monk Company	62½	+1	...	17.0
285	12½	5.60	On Line	140	-6½	...	...
85	75	6.53	Optoplast	75	...	2.0	12.6
27	9¾	29.50	Oxford Biomedica	20¾	...	...	...
0¾	0¼	6.02	Pacific Media	0¼	...	...	...
11	5	2.96	Pan Andean Res	6¼	+1	...	...
19½	15½	1.97	Parallel Pcts	15½	-1	...	...
220	215	5.16	Park Ests(Liv)	215	...	4.9	...
13½	7½	8.79	Pathfinder Props	12½	+¼	3.3	5.8
183½	148½	11.90	Peel Hotels	183½	+12	0.5	...
9¼	6½	3.32	Pembertons	6¾	-½	...	...
131½	123½	8.35	Pennant Intl	126½	...	2.8	...
47½	39½	10.80	Personal No Co	40½	-2	...	...
83½	59½	24.40	Petra Diamonds	71½	-2	...	...
58½	40	0.88	Petra Dmnds Wt	52½	...	...	...
12	9	3.39	Philippine Gd	10	+½	...	24.6
67½	10½	10.10	Pital Tech	42½	-17½	...	...
259½	187½	34.30	Policy Master Grp†	243	-½	0.4	34.9
162	138	33.10	PolyDoc	160	...	...	...
58½	38½	9.77	Polymasc Pharms	46½	+5	...	...
0¾	0½	1.64	Pordum Foods	0¾	+¼	...	...
0¾	0¼	0.16	Pordum Fds Wts	0¾	...	...	...
23	13	17.50	Premier Asset Mgt	20	+½	...	15.3
189½	160½	6.75	Premier Direct Grp	182½	...	...	5.9
4	2¾	128.50	Prestbury Group	3¾	...	...	51.1
345	330	6.93	Preston Nth E	330	...	...	...
87½	67½	5.27	Private & Comm	85	+½	0.7	13.9
260	250	8.75	Property & Cap	250	...	...	...
18	6¼	8.94	Proteome Scies	11½	...	...	...
57½	35	2.04	Pubs n Bars	55	...	...	...
82½	47½	11.70	Pycraft & Arnold	75	...	2.9	13.1
101½	65½	17.80	Q Group	101½	+7	0.5	16.2
345	214½	95.40	Ramco Egy	315	+10	...	...
9	6½	11.90	Range Cooker	7½	+¼	2.3	7.1
119½	62	10.50	Raphael ZH	70½	-2	4.3	5.7
17½	13½	2.19	Recycling Servs	13½	...	...	12.3
5½	1½	5.14	Reflec	1¾	...	...	...
2½	1¼	1.36	Revelation Plc	1¼	...	24.0	...
6	5	3.29	Riceman Insce	5	...	...	...
76½	63½	3.37	Romtec	63½	...	2.5	...
217½	177½	15.60	SBS	177½	-2½	1.8	14.3
87½	38	7.81	SCi Ent	61½	-2	...	...
55½	34½	8.96	Salestore	40	...	...	...
128½	125½	6.78	Savoy Asset Mgt	125½	...	3.4	13.7
218½	156½	37.10	Science Sys	218½	+3½	0.8	...
16	11½	4.54	Scotswood Inds	14	...	...	...
1¼	0¾	1.97	Screen	0¾	...	...	...
2¾	2½	0.48	Selector	2½	...	...	...
161½	108½	8.79	[illegible]	108½	...	4.3	...
57½	45	2.39	Shelton (M)	45	-½	9.4	6.0
8¾	3¾	47.00	Sibir Energy	7	+¾	...	...
3¾	2¼	5.22	Sira Bus Serv	2¼	...	3.2	8.0
15½	10½	6.28	Sodra Petroleum	15½	+3	...	...
49½	45½	2.87	Solid State Sp	45½	...	1.1	28.7
250	230	10.60	Solitaire	230	...	2.8	21.0
81½	34½	5.71	Soundtracs	56½	-10	1.0	33.7
1	0½	1.47	South Beach Concepts	0½	...	...	...
59½	45½	9.40	Southern Vectis	47½	...	4.8	6.8
86½	62½	34.20	Sports & Out Media	78½	-2	...	29.9
194	55½	17.10	Sports Internet	194	+14½	...	...
155	147½	8.50	Springboard Venture Managers	154½	...	...	...
370	137½	42.20	Staffware	332½	-20	...	...
196	103	32.00	Stanford Rook	161	+16	...	...
35½	11	3.04	Stentor	26	...	...	...
6	3		Stentor Warrants	5	...	...	...
87½	60	3.58	SupaRule	65	-10	...	...
135	120	12.00	Sutton Harbour	120	...	3.1	18.0
43	7	2.98	Syst Integ Rsch	22¼	+¼	...	...
74½	47½	25.30	Systems Intl	74	+6½	0.1	23.6
3½	3¼	5.73	Talisman House	3½	...	...	8.8
2	1	0.04	Talisman House Warrants	1	...	...	...
37½	22½	3.97	Theo Fennell	24½	...	...	26.4
4¾	4½	9.00	Thomas Potts	4½	...	0.4	10.6
19½	11½	1.70	Tom Hoskins	16½	+1	...	10.7
57½	27½	4.91	Total Office	30½	-2	5.9	...
148½	95½	14.60	Touchstone Grp	148½	+5	0.2	21.5
66½	15½	18.10	Tradepoint Fcl	62½	...	...	...
55½	47½	7.68	Tricorder Tech	50½	...	...	...
145	135	6.72	Trinity Care	140	...	3.9	12.7
100	100		Triven VCT	100	...	...	...
175	145	6.04	UA Group	172½	...	2.7	...
39½	32½	2.96	Univent	32½	...	...	28.8
195	122	20.70	VDC	190	+15	2.9	16.6
9½	6	22.10	Victory Corp	7	+½	...	...
341½	143	47.20	Virtual Internet	235	+90	...	...
198½	41½	5.13	Voss Net	142½	...	...	...
7½	6	1.12	Voyager 2000	7½	...	...	...
37½	25½	16.80	WML	37½	+3½	...	36.8
3¼	1½	3.92	Weeks Group	2¾	-¼	4.0	11.9
68½	42	3.22	West 175 Enter	58½	-2	...	...
£115	9500	10.50	West Bromwich	£105	...	...	...
9	8	3.70	Western Selectn	8½	+¼	2.9	28.2
1¾	1½	0.11	Western Sel Wts	1¾	...	...	...
32½	17½	3.30	Westmount Engy	29½	+7	...	...
80	50	1.75	Willington	55	...	8.7	2.2
112½	61½	13.89	Winchester	102½	...	...	53.7
75	55	14.60	World Telecom	58	+1½	...	...
135	135	4.32	Wynnstay Props	135	...	3.9	16.3
170	125	35.80	XKO	153½	...	...	...
35½	29½	6.02	Xpertise	29½	...	...	...
63½	51½	4.67	Yeoman	61½	...	...	...
3	3	0.69	Zisor Mining	3	...	...	...

SB enlists Bristol-Myers to aid new drug's sales drive

By Paul Durman

SMITHKLINE BEECHAM has brought in Bristol-Myers Squibb, the large US pharmaceutical group, to help it to make a success of Avandia, its new diabetes treatment.

Bristol-Myers will sell Avandia in the US alongside SB to encourage a rapid take-off of the potential blockbuster seen as vital to the British company's growth. Advisers to the US Food and Drug Administration unanimously recommended on Thursday that Avandia be approved for treating adult-onset diabetes, a problem for almost 15 million Americans.

Bristol-Myers already sells Glucophage, the leading diabetes treatment, whose fast-growing sales reached $282 million in this year's first quarter. SB, which has more than 3,000 US sales representatives, believes that Bristol-Myers will help it to "get the product to physicians and patients faster".

Co-promotion such as this has been a big success for Pfizer, which sells Lipitor, developed by Warner-Lambert, and Celebrex, developed by GD Searle. Lipitor, a cholesterol-lowering drug, and Celebrex, for arthritis, are two of the most successful drugs ever. SB has had less success with the cholesterol-lowering Baycol, sold for Bayer of Germany.

France pressing for Elf and Total tie-up

From Adam Sage in Paris

THE FRENCH Government is pressing for a merger between the French oil giants Elf-Aquitaine and Total-Fina.

The Socialist-led Government believes that a Gallic national merger may be the only way to avert the sale of Elf either to Shell or to Italy's Agip.

Speculation about Elf has been fuelled by reports that Mark Moody-Stuart, Shell's chairman is pondering a bid. He has been asking pension funds owning about 55 per cent of Elf whether they would back a hostile offer.

Jérôme Jaffré, Elf's chairman, favours a link with Agip, but analysts say he may be whistling in the wind. "Agip and Elf are pretty much the same and it is always difficult to succeed in a merger between equals," Jean-Jacques Limage, an EIFB analyst, said.

Elf profits last year fell by about a third to Fr3.5 billion (£350 million) on turnover 17 per cent down at Fr211 billion.

The Government, which retains a golden share in Elf, wants to "save" the company through a merger with Total — which last year announced purchasing the Belgian Petrofina — but senior managers say their cultures differ too much.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 40

AGRYPNIA

(b) Wakefulness, sleeplessness. An adaptation of the Greek word meaning "without sleep". 1753, *Chambers*: "Agrypnia, in the Greek church, is used for the vigil of any of the greater feast-days."

BRODEKIN

(c) A high boot reaching about half-way up the calves of the legs. A buskin. Fifteenth-century French, related to the Flemish. Thackeray, *Pendennis*, 1850: "From their bonnets to their brodekins."

BUMBASS

(a) A large projectile to be thrown from a bombard. It must surely be connected with the *bomb* in *bombard*. 1655: "A Spring to shoot Bumbasses and Bullets of an hundred pound weight a Steeple height."

ABRAHAM'S BALM

(b) An old name of the chaste tree (*Vitex Agnus castus*), a native of the shores of the Mediterranean. 1676: "Abraham's Baum [sic] hath a singular property to procure chastity, for which cause physicians have named it Agnus castus."

SOLUTION TO THE WINNING MOVE

1 Rxg6! hxg6 2 Nf7+ Kh7 3 g5! and now Black suffers due to the unfortunate position of his rook on c8, e.g. 3 ... Rgf8 4 Qh3+ Kg8 5 e6 Rxf7 6 exf7+ Kxf7 7 Qxc8 and wins.

Housing boom is not inevitable



Once again the housing market is at the centre of disputes about the outlook for the British economy. Some forecasters are suggesting that we are in for another housing boom. Most strikingly, stories abound of City whiz-kids who, in former times, would blow a large part of their bonuses on a Porsche, now buying London property to rent. I am not sure how that leaves you, but it does not exactly fill me with confidence.

Support for a strongly bullish view of the housing market can certainly be found in selected comparisons with previous experience. According to FPD Savills, the property consultancy, after the latest rate cuts, mortgage payments have fallen to 15 per cent of the average household's disposable income. The historical average is 25 per cent, while at the end of 1989, the proportion was a staggering 45 per cent. In other words, taking account of the level of both house prices and interest rates, property is now more affordable than it has been for decades. Therefore, you might think, it must be a raging buy and the boys with the Porsches have got it right again.

But hold on. This notion of judging whether the price of something is going to go up on the basis of its "affordability" is very odd. I do not know about Porsches, but the average car is more affordable than ever, so is the average can of baked beans. But if I were you, I would not set out to build up stocks of either in anticipation of a sharp rise in prices. The notion that this is a way of assessing the housing market derives from the idea that the demand for housing is always finance-constrained, that is to say, you would always seek to put more into housing if only you could raise the money.

This was indeed a rough description of the housing market in the not-too-distant past. Until the mid-1980s, housing finance was rationed and there was considerable pent-up demand. Moreover, the combination of high inflation and favourable tax treatment for housing meant that it was advantageous to put as much money into property as you could. Accordingly, if lower interest rates reduced the mortgage burden, it seemed sensible to increase the size of the mortgage. But that game came to an end with a bang when the raging boom of the late-1980s sent house prices to such levels that thereafter they had to fall, and sky-high interest rates broke many a borrower.

The subsequent change in psychology undermined the relevance of "affordability". In the Eighties, people did not envisage that they would go on paying out 30 or 40 per cent of their disposable incomes in mortgage payments forever. Rather, they believed that rapidly rising incomes would quickly reduce that percentage, while house prices would continue to rocket, giving them the chance, at some point over the rainbow, to cash in their chips and live on the proceeds. Once you take away that perception, the relevance of historical comparisons of "affordability" is sharply reduced.

You reach the same conclusion if you focus on real rather than nominal interest rates. On the face of it, interest rates, including mortgage rates, are extremely low. But once you take account of the rate of inflation and changes in tax treatment, they are not low at all. Indeed, they are higher than they have been for much of the last 30 years.

Another widely watched measure of the cheapness or dearness of houses is the ratio of the average house price to average earnings, or if you like, the number of years of gross earnings the average person would have to pay to secure the average house. I prefer this ratio to measures of "affordability" because it is not distorted by misleading changes in the level of nominal interest rates. At the peak of the 1980s boom, the ratio reached 5.5, but the average over 30 years is about 3.8. It is standing at that level now. This suggests that although houses are not expensive, neither are they particularly cheap. It supports the view that, unless the market takes leave of its senses, house prices are likely to rise only modestly, just above the increase in incomes.

This is another contrast with the late 1980s — the market will not be allowed to take leave of its senses. If house prices were to take off then this would threaten unacceptable implications for inflation. Accordingly, the Monetary Policy Committee would raise rates — if necessary, to excruciatingly painful levels. So anyone who correctly foresaw a housing boom and geared up accordingly would experience only short-lived joy. They would soon find themselves saddled with high borrowing costs and a housing market turned soggy as a result.

The one set of conditions in which I *could* envisage house prices taking off would be if the MPC no longer had its eye on inflation. Moreover, there is one plausible circumstance in which this could happen. Suppose that the Government gets serious about preparing Britain for the euro and decides to target a level for the exchange rate of the pound.

With euro interest rates now at 2.5 per cent, and perhaps set to fall further, this would imply sharply reduced sterling rates, perhaps down to 2.5 per cent or lower — even if that threatened a house price explosion and an inflationary blow-off.

You might conclude from this that an Irish-style housing boom is indeed on the cards in the UK. I conclude something quite different. Far from being driven by the force of inevitability, getting Britain into euroland will be a herculean task.

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Jason Nissé on how a 300,000-strong African tribe has become a big player in platinum

Royalty reaps a reluctant harvest

Bafokeng's leader, Lebone Molotlegi II, has fought Impala through the courts for a decade

A crocodile is the symbol of the Royal Bafokeng Nation. And by South African tradition a crocodile can break down stone walls when it is roused. A more recent legend, which raises a smile in Johannesburg wine bars, concerns a crocodile subjugating an impala. As the 300,000-strong tribe from the northern corner of South Africa has won an historic victory over Impala Platinum, the giant mining group named after the southern African gazelle, and so made itself an important player in the market for one of the world's most sought-after metals.

These days the Bafokeng is jokingly referred to as "a tribe of lawyers". But the Bafokeng is not so much a tribe of lawyers, as a tribe of businessmen. It is led by its *kgosi* — or king — the 34-year-old, American-educated Lebone Molotlegi II. He has spent nearly a decade fighting Impala and its backers, Gencor, the South African conglomerate, through the courts. At stake were the revenues from four platinum mines (evocatively named Impala I and II, and Wildebeesten I and II) located on Bafokeng land, which stretches from the dusty town of Rustenberg to the southern borders of the Sun City holiday complex.

The deal, struck a few weeks ago, gives the Bafokeng a stake in Impala, a royalty of about 22 per cent of the mines' revenues and a seat on the £500 million company's board for the *kgosi*. It also guarantees how much Impala will mine, how it treats its workers and the local environment and gives the Bafokeng an important say in whether Impala strikes the asset swap it wants to do with Lonmin, the British group formerly known as Lonrho.

However, the issues raised by the Bafokeng's agreement with Impala go deeper than a seam of platinum, reaching to the core of how South Africa's giant mineral wealth is divided between the tribes who have lived there for centuries and the white settlers who arrived on the gold, diamond and platinum-rich areas less than 200 years ago. The Johannesburg business community is split between those who think this is a landmark in the battle for native land rights, or a one-off brought about by tenacity, good luck and the foresight of an African king who was born nearly 180 years ago.

Sitting in his office, with its oak-panelled walls and a stuffed leopard by his desk, the *kgosi* certainly pays tribute from the Bafokeng's unique position to his great, great grandfather — who was simply known as Mokgatle. He ruled the Bafokeng — which can trace its history back to the 12th century — for 50 years from around 1834.

The tribe came to live on its current lands in the early 17th century — about the same time as the Cape province was settled by the Dutch. The Bafokeng lived peacefully until the Zulu uprising of the early 1820s, when it was attacked by renegade Zulu warriors, led by the chief Mzilikazi. Here luck intervened: the Bafokeng found themselves an unlikely ally in the Boer "Voortrekkers" who had ventured north to set up a new republic in the Transvaal. Mzilikazi, who himself was on the run from Shaka, the fearsome Zulu leader, attacked the Boers. Realising it was better to make friends against a common enemy rather than fight on two fronts, Mogkatle and the Boer leader, Paul Kruger, banded together.

Kruger gave the young Mogkatle some invaluable advice: if you want to keep your land, you have to buy the title deeds. Mogkatle sent 50 of his men to Kimberley, where they worked in the newly established diamond mines, raising enough money for the Bafokeng to buy the 1,200 square kilometres it now owns.


Kruger: invaluable advice

This ownership started to become important when platinum was found in the 1920s. However, it was not until the 1960s that mining started in earnest. A prospecting agreement was signed between Gencor and the Bafokeng in 1966, and there were a series of other deals between the Gencor, its subsidiary, Impala, and the Bafokeng. But the key deal which led to the Bafokeng's legal action was struck in the 1980s.

As part of South Africa's policy, while apartheid still operated, of creating "independent" homelands within the country, the Bafokeng found themselves part of Bophuthatswana. The homeland's president, Lucas Mangope, was jealous of the Bafokeng's mineral wealth and pressurised the father of the current *kgosi*, Lebone Molotlegi I, to give up the rights. He resisted, but was forced into exile in Botswana and, while he was away, Mangope signed away the Bafokeng's rights to Impala.

When Mangope was deposed, the Bafokeng first tried to have the deal with Impala changed. And when that legal action failed, it went back to court to have the whole agreement ruled invalid, claiming President Mangope had exceeded his powers.

Impala claimed it was not going to budge. Steve Kearney, Impala's managing director, said: "We have a strong legal position, having entered a legitimate business deal."

In the end the market, sensing a legal battle could put Impala under pressure from predators, forced the mining group's hands. "The settlement attempts to meet the aspirations of the Royal Bafokeng Nation without diminishing value for Impala shareholders," said Cathie Markus, Impala's legal adviser.

The *kgosi* is happy. He was able to sell the settlement to the Bafokeng parliament, which is made up of 75 elders, or *dighosana*, and 39 elected councillors. Only two voted against the plan.

The deal gives the Bafokeng a solid revenue for the foreseeable future. But his priority is to invest it back into the community. "I want there to be a thriving industry here when the platinum runs out," he said.

The Bafokeng has already built a civic centre, schools, hospitals and roads in an area that was starved of resources in the apartheid era. It has purchased the shopping centre in the local town of Phokeng, which it is redeveloping, has invested in a brick-and-tile factory and struck a joint venture with Mobil for distribution of lubricants. The latest project is a sports complex with a 50,000-seat football stadium.

The *kgosi* now wants to separate the running of the Bafokeng's business interest from the day-to-day work of being the leader of 300,000 people. A company, called Royal Bafokeng Administration (RBA), has been formed. Outside managers will be hired to bring other businesses into the area.

Ultimately the *kgosi* would like to float RBA on the Johannesburg market. It is not a case of black empowerment, the buzzword in the South African business community, he said, just sound commercial sense. "Black empowerment is a trend. We in the Bafokeng have been doing it since before the term was invented."

TELEVISION CHOICE

Guide to the Internet

WebWise
BBC2, 7.30pm

This interactive travel show, presented by Kate Humble, is the start of a campaign by the BBC and venues across Britain to get everybody using the Internet. There is a free magazine or call 0800-100 900 to find out about the free taster sessions. Lines are open from today or you can visit the dedicated website: http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise. There are programmes in the *Learning Zone* on BBC2 from today (5am), 90-second films, *Tales from the Net*, at 10.28pm for the next five nights, and, on Wednesday, a *Tomorrow's World* special on BBC1 at 7.30pm.

Mystery of the Mummies
Channel 4, 8pm

The Search for the Lost City of the Zoque is the last of this trilogy, and, oddly, features no mummies at all. What it does have, however, is film of an archaeological expedition discovering, in the rainforest of southern Mexico, the finest and most extensive ruins of the civilisation of the Zoque, abandoned 1,000 years ago and similar to the more famous monumental constructions of the Mayan and Aztec peoples of the region.

Equinox: Sweden, Sex and the Disappearing Doctors
Channel 4, 9pm

This is an unsettling film and the story that the presenter Fisher Dilke tries to put together is well worth the telling. It seems that the programme of sterilisation that the Swedish Government introduced in 1934, in the interests of eugenics, was extended in the 1940s from those with epilepsy, diabetes and perceived mental problems to anybody regarded as antisocial, unmarried pregnant young women and then to the Tattare, travellers who, because they were classified as "underclass" Swedes rather than as Gypsies, were gradually "weeded out" to maintain the purity of the Nordic race. The programme continued, nominally on a voluntary basis, until 1975. Dilke finds extreme reluctance among today's Swedes to talk about the matter.

Keeley Hawes and Rupert Graves in *The Blonde Bombshell* (ITV, 9pm)

The Blonde Bombshell
ITV, 9pm

Diana Dors has been dead for 15 years, but the actress is brought vividly back to life in this two-part film by Ted Whitehead, using material from her own autobiographical writings. Tonight Keeley Hawes plays her from her drama school days to her first foray to Hollywood and the end of her first marriage, to Dennis Hamilton. Hawes is superb as the achingly ambitious, buxom, dyed-blonde who really couldn't say no to anything; Sheila Gish plays her mother, whose showbiz dreams she is fulfilling. Rupert Graves is electrifying as the utterly unscrupulous, vile-tempered and faithless Hamilton, a perverted charmer who died of syphilis and whose debts crippled her financially. Tomorrow night Amanda Redman very movingly takes the story on through the second and third marriages and the rollercoaster of success and personal tragedy. Gary Webster plays Dickie Dawson and Barnaby Kay is Alan Lake. Two of Diana's children were consultants to Robert Bierman's film, which is strongly recommended.

Tony Patrick

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Chris Moyles **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **2.00pm** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Dave Pearce **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dave Pearce. Medley of hits **8.00** Lamacq Live **12.00** The Breezeblock **2.00am** Clive Warren **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Lynn Parsons **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Humphrey Lyttelton **8.00** Big Band Special **8.30** Jools Holland **9.30** Joe Brown. Let It Rock. Featuring Hogan's Heroes in session (3/13) **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.00** Katrina Leskanich **3.00am** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00** The Midday News with Gary Robertson I **1.00pm** Ian Payne **4.00** Drive. A round-up of the latest news and sport. With Peter Allen and Jane Garvey **7.00** News Extra **7.30** Wembley Winners. Peter Slater looks back at the 1968 FA Cup final between Everton and West Bromwich Albion **8.00** Trevor Brooking's Monday Match. QPR v Bradford City. Live commentary on the Division One match from Loftus Road **10.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Let's Talk Soap **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** The Sports Zone **7.00** Under the Posts **8.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

VIRGIN

6.30am The Breakfast Show **9.30** Russ Williams **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Pete and Geoff **10.00** Gary Davies **1.00am** Richard Allen **4.30** Phil Kennedy

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Talking Point **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** World Business Report **8.15** Science On A Plate **8.30** Everywoman **9.00** World News **9.05** Record News **9.20** Off the Shelf: Frankenstein **9.35** Health Matters **10.00** World News **10.05** Business Class **10.20** Counterpoint **10.50** Sports Round-Up **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Britain Today **11.45** World Business Report **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30pm** Pick of the World **1.00** World News **1.05** Outlook **1.45** Sports Round-Up **2.00** Newshour **3.00** World News **3.05** Health Matters **3.30** Meridian **4.00** World News **4.05** Sports Roundup **4.15** Soundbyte **4.30** Composer Of the Month **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Insight **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** The Way We Are **6.45** Sports Round-Up **7.00** World News **7.15** Britain Today **7.30** The Khalsa **8.00** World News **8.05** Health Matters **8.30** The Farming World **8.45** Off the Shelf: Frankenstein **9.00** Newshour **10.00** World News **10.05** World Business Report **10.20** Britain Today **10.30** Meridian **11.00** World News **11.15** Sports Round-Up **11.30** The UK Top Twenty **12.00** World News **12.05am** Outlook **12.45** Insight **1.00** The World Today **1.30** Health Matters **1.55** My Century **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Westway **2.45** Record News **3.00** The World Today **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today **4.20** Sport **4.30** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Favourite musical works, plus regular information updates **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour and CD of the Week **12.00** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones presents listeners' favourites **2.00pm** Concerto. Saileri (Flute and Oboe Concerto in C major) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance **6.30** Newsnight. John Brunning presents the latest stories **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. Two hours of soothing sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Crusell (Introduction et Air Suedois Varie); Sibelius (Violin Concerto in D minor); Sibelius (Symphony No 1 in E minor); Klami (Karelian Rhapsody) **11.00** Mann at Night. A chance to wind down with the sound of ambient music **2.00am** Concerto. Salieri (Flute and Oboe Concerto in C major) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

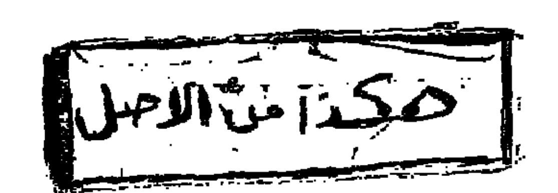
RADIO 3

6.00am On Air With Petroc Trelawny. Includes Haydn's Piano Trio in E flat, H XV 30, works by Victoria and Alfven's Swedish Rhapsody No 2
9.00 Masterworks With Peter Hobday. Gershwin (Rhapsody in Blue: Columbia SO under Leonard Bernstein, piano); **9.18** Mozart (Andante in C: Lisa Beznosiuk, flute, Academy of Ancient Music under Christopher Hogwood); **9.24** Telemann (Cantata, Lobet den Herrn, alle seine Heerscharen. Soloists, Bach Collegium Vocale, Friedemann Immer Trumpet Consort, Hanover Hofkapelle Baroque Orchestra under Ulrich Stotzel). **9.45** Corelli (Concerto grosso in D, Op 6 No 7: English Concert); **9.55** Mozart (Rondo in E flat, K371). **10.02** Bernstein (Ballet music, On the Town). **10.10** Harris (Symphony No 3)
10.30 Artist of the Week Clarinettist Emma Johnson
11.00 Sound Stories Presented by Richard Baker
12.00 Composer of the Week: Duke Ellington
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Live from Wigmore Hall, London, continuing a season of chamber concerts. Takacs Trio. Haydn (Piano Trio in G, H XV 25, Gypsy Rondo); Beethoven (Piano Trio in B flat, Op 97, Archduke)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras Ulster Orchestra under Jacek Kaspszyk, Hugh Tinney, piano. Rossini (Overture, William Tell), Grieg (Suite, Sigurd Jorsalfar); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 19 in F, K459); Mendelssohn (Symphony in D), Dvorak (Scherzo capriccioso)
4.00 Opera In Action Graeme Kay presents a series on the mechanics of opera. This programme looks at the orchestra and the vital part it plays in the dramatic flow of an opera
5.00 In Tune With Sean Rafferty
7.30 Performance on 3 Chris de Souza introduces a concert given earlier this month in Symphony Hall, Birmingham. Andrew Marriner, clarinet, Ladies of the Chorus of St Martin in the Fields, ASMF under Neville Marriner. Berlioz (Overture, Beatrice and Benedict); Mozart (Clarinet Concerto in A, K622). **8.10** The Yellow-Haired Boy. By Michele Roberts, commissioned by BBC Radio 3 and *BBC Music Magazine* and read by Stella Gonet. **8.30** Concert, part 2. Mendelssohn (Incidental music, A Midsummer Night's Dream)
9.40 Postscript Derek Alsop explores what makes a great musical setting through five case studies
10.00 Voices Iain Burnside introduces a concert given last month at the Wigmore Hall, London, by Nathan Gunn, baritone, and Kevin Murphy, piano
11.00 Night Waves Philip Dodd considers the work of film director David Cronenberg, as his new film *eXistenZ* opens in Britain
11.30 Jazz Notes Recordings by Duke Ellington
12.00 Through the Night

RADIO 4

5.30am World News
5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40 Inshore Forecast
5.45 Prayer for the Day With Pastor Lindsay Allen
5.47 Farming Today Charlotte Smith presents
6.00 Today James Naughtie and Winifred Robinson present. Including Thought for the Day
9.00 Start the Week Hosted by Jeremy Paxman
9.45 (FM) Serial: Nathaniel's Nutmeg By Giles Milton. Read by Ben Onwukwe
9.45 (LW) Daily Service From St Martin's Church, Belfast
10.00 Woman's Hour The actress Harriet Walter joins Martha Kearney. Drama: *Postcards*, by Nick Darke
11.00 Mapping the Town (3/4)
11.30 Full Moon P G Wodehouse's comic tale (4/4)
12.00 (FM) News
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.04pm You and Yours Consumer issues, presented by John Waite and Liz Barclay
1.00 The World at One With Nick Clarke
1.30 Mastermind Hosted by Peter Snow
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: 46 Nursing Homes Drama, based on a sequence of poems by Ruth Silcock, charting her search for a residential home for her mother. With Rosemary Leach and Marcia Warren
3.00 Money Box Live: 0870 010 0444
3.30 Naming the Universe New series. Heather Couper looks at the evocative names given to stars and planets. In the first edition, Douglas Adams and Paul Murdin reflect on the pleasures of stargazing (1/5)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Narrated by Anna Massey (r)
4.00 The Food Programme (r)
4.30 Four Corners Global issues, with Jane Franchi
5.00 PM With Clare English and Chris Lowe
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Quote, Unquote Popular quiz, with guests Roy Hudd, Steve Jones, Angela Scoular and Peter Porter. Chaired by Nigel Rees
7.00 The Archers
7.15 Front Row Arts review, with Mark Lawson
7.45 Postcards Part one of Nick Darke's *Flotsam and Jetsam*. A mother prepares for her son's departure (r)
8.00 An Inspector Calls Series of programmes about public safety inspectors. Jenny Cuffe explores the work of the coastguard (2/3)
8.30 In Business A Boss's Guide to the Internet. New series. Peter Day discusses the current commercial revolution
9.00 Spring Watch Nick Baker crosses the Scottish border in search of signs of spring. Last in series
9.30 Start the Week (r)
10.00 The World Tonight Robin Lustig presents
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Service of Clouds
11.00 Late Night on 4: Voyage (3/5)
11.30 (FM) Crossing Continents Report on Nigerian villagers who have resorted to using traditional magic to fight for their share of local oilfields (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament
12.00 News
12.30am The Late Book: Biggest Elvis (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Maxey, Jane Gregory and Barry O'Keefe



The Sundays: nothing much to Bragg about





Paul Hoggart

You can have too much of a good thing, of course. When the good thing in question is as deeply serious as The Life Peer Formerly Known as Melvyn, that point can arrive surprisingly quickly. Even so, he was an excellent host on **The Sundays**, Channel 4's Saturday night guide to the following morning's papers.

However plodding some of his presenting may be, Lord Bragg is a deft and astute chairman of group discussions. This was what was needed to juggle a panel of opinionated hacks, writers and comics, such as Francis Wheen, Howard Jacobson or Linda Smith, and the formula worked a treat.

But for the new series he has been replaced by a deranged *young Scot called Alan Tyler.* Tyler bounds into the studio like some tacky game *show host. His* every utterance is injected with SPURIOUS URGENCY! He tries to make everything sound like EXCITING FUN! He thinks it is his duty to cut across the panellists, usually to SHOUT SOMETHING COMPLETELY STUPID. He puts the "thick" in thick Scottish accent. Heavens preserve us. HE THINKS HE'S THE NEXT CHRIS EVANS!

The panellists blinked gently and tried to carry on as if they weren't being hectored by the loony in the Tube compartment, but you could see it was hard going. At the end we learnt of the breaking story that Zoran Djindjic, a Serbian opposition politician, has spoken out against Slobodan Milosevic's conduct in Kosovo. As the last prominent Yugoslav to do *this, the journalist Slavko Curuvija,* was promptly shot dead, this must have taken courage.

This update was of particular interest to anyone who had seen **Correpondent: Sloba and Mira** on BBC2 earlier in the evening, as both Djindjic and Curuvija featured prominently on this profile of the President of Yugoslavia and his wife.

Documentary makers always take the risk that their work will be overtaken by events. The reporter Phil Rees and *the production team* must have felt this acutely as the *potential lessons of their carefully* assembled materials were blown apart by the first cruise missile. What was doubtless intended as a sober warning, became a chastening explanation of why Nato's strategy has gone so awry.

One image stood out — the skulls of Serb warriors decapitated by their Muslim *oppressors embedded in niches in* a medieval church wall. A deep and violent sense of ancient injustice and unrighted wrongs, bitter grievances ossified into symbols and nurtured over centuries — these has been the fuel of Slobodan Milosevic's rise to power, remorselessly pushed by his wife Mira.

Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos, Bill and Hillary Clinton, Neil and Christine Hamilton — the pairing *of the amoral opportunist and the* driven ambitious wife is an archetype. *Their schoolmates called* Sloba and Mira "Romeo and Juliet", so cloyingly were they devoted to each other, but they turn out to be more like the Macbeths.

Both are *tormented* by private ghosts. His uncle, father and mother all committed suicide. Her mother betrayed her partisan comrades under Gestapo torture, an offence for which her father, Mira's granddad, personally shot her.

The most worrying underlying message was that they were fundamentally *unstable, ruthless and op*erating outside the norms of rational, *decent behaviour. Her ambi*tion for him is all-consuming, and she is known to dominate his political will. He is, by this account, a hollow opportunist and together they have spun a spider's web of political and financial corruption.

You could dismiss this as Nato propaganda, except that the *witnesses included many impor*tant former friends and allies whom the couple have manipulated or betrayed. Above all we were shown that Sloba and Mira have always used external conflict to bolster their position. At a time when their grip might have been weakening, the cluster bombs have fallen like manna from heaven.

Being relatively new to this job, and working from home, I have spent very little time in the offices of *The Times* and have never met the Editor, Peter Stothard, the subject of Nick Danziger's profile in ***The Establishment*** (Channel 4, Saturday). So I watched with a mix*ture of rubber-necking fascination* and some apprehension in case the programme showed my employer in an unexpectedly bad light.

Filmed across the furore over the serialisation of Gitta Sereny's book on the child-murderer Mary Bell, the *film might have laid the Editor* open to some uncomfortable criticisms. *In the event I would be* surprised if he wasn't rather pleased with a portrait that proved to be respectful and appreciative.

The only dissenting voices came from the mother of Mary Bell's victim ("All this is about money") and the veteran letter writer Captain Kimm, who thought the paper had behaved hypocritically ("Shame on you all!"). Danziger's technique of running the commentary over black-and-white *stills* lent an air of gravitas and the programme ended with *the satisfaction* of a big scoop, obtained by completely ethical means.

I enjoy Roger Cook's exposés. There is something about the inevitability of it all. Cook's tone of shocked indignation, the secret films, the "Gotcha!" denouements, that border on the comical.

Locks, Stocks, Burglars and Fences (ITV, Friday) was *gratifyingly true to form, with the* interfering old *agent provocateur* setting up, *inter alia, a formidable* lady burglar and a bent jeweller. Maybe all police work should be conducted like this, with the cost of operations being covered by advertising revenue.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (79684)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (41133)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (9530626)
9.45 Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook (r) (T) (185997)
10.15 The Vanessa Show (T) (4790210)
11.00 News; Weather (T) (5484930)
11.05 City Hospital (T) (9601959)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (8441602)
12.00 Going for a Song (6734189)
12.25pm Just a Minute (T) (3584686)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (11191084)
1.00 News; Weather (T) (44220)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (58539336)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (16780133)
2.05 Ironside (r) (1678591)
2.55 Through the Keyhole (T) (2644046)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (8074930) **3.45** Bob the Builder (4608794) **3.55** Wildlife) **4.00** Bodger and Badger (5365978) **4.15** Casper (7848171) **4.35** 50/50 (7079775) **5.00** Newsround (5001572) *5.10 Blue Peter* (2862171)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (171022)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (249)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (201)
7.00 A Question of Sport Olympic gold medallist Steve Redgrave and Manchester United's Teddy Sheringham join team captains Ally McCoist and John Parrott for another round of sporting trivia. Hosted by Sue Barker (T) (7626)
7.30 The Zoo Keepers (r) (T) (713)
8.00 EastEnders (T) (3046)
8.30 Ground Force The team revisit the owner of a wildlife-filled haven (5881)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (7107)
9.30 Party Election Broadcast By the Labour Party (T) (346189)
9.35 The Vicar of Dibley *A falling tree* destroys St Barnabas's stained glass *window, and Geraldine is put in charge of* raising funds to replace it. Comedy, with Dawn French (r) (T) (780404)
10.05 Panorama On May 6, Scotland will be invited to elect its first parliament for almost 300 years (T) (992065)



Aidan Quinn is haunted by ghosts from the past (10.45pm)

10.45 Haunted (1996) *A parapsychologist falls* for a woman who lives in a haunted house *Drama, with Aidan Quinn.* Directed by Lewis Gilbert (T) (69885881)
12.25am Crucible of Terror (1971) Atmospheric chiller about a deranged sculptor who creates lifelike statues by killing his models and casting them in bronze. James Bolam and Mike Raven star. Directed by Ted Hooker (1949621)
1.55 Weather (2726282)
2.00 BBC News 24 (2636244)

WALES

6.30pm-7.00 Wales Today (T) (201)
1.55am-2.00 News (T) (2726282)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Noddy in Toyland (43591) **7.30** Top Cat (8573201) **7.55** Blue Peter (8838794) **8.20** Dastardly and Muttley (8543065) **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts (3026084) **8.50** Pingu (3022268) **9.00** Daytime On Two: Isabel Highlights (4564713) **9.10** Sportsbank (9183404) **9.30** Numbertime (7919220) **9.45** Storytime (7914775) **10.00** Children's BBC: Teletubbies (38171) **10.30** Daytime On Two: Words and Pictures (3562220) **10.45** Cats' Eyes (3567775) **11.00** Look and Read (1469510) **11.20** Zig Zag (6915881) **11.40** Landmarks (4599133) **12.05pm** History File (3489012) **12.30** Working Lunch (78626)
1.00 Children's BBC: Juniper Jungle (38764713)
1.10 Snooker: World Championship David Vine and Dougie Donnelly introduce quarter-final action (84855626)
6.00 The O Zone Featuring the Backstreet Boys, Welsh band Stereophonics and dance act Basement Jaxx (373862)
6.15 The Simpsons Mayor Quimby's nephew is wrongly accused of assault, placing Bart in a difficult situation (r) (T) (916591)
6.40 Space 1999 Alpha botanist Shermeen is *plagued by hallucinations on a seemingly* uninhabited planet (T) (151404)



Reporter Kate Humble travels the World Wide Web (7.30pm)

7.30 CHOICE **WebWise** Interactive travel show, designed to help people to use the Internet (355)
7.58 Tales from the Net (T) (172775)
8.00 Snooker: World Championship David Vine introduces this evening's session from the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the quarter-finals are under way. Commentary by Clive Everton (729713)
10.30 Party *Election* Broadcast By the Labour Party. With in-vision subtitles (340978)
10.35 Newsnight Round-up of the day's events (T) (783539)
11.18 Video Nation Shorts from the Balkans (T) (224626)
11.20 The Viewing Room New series. Kaye Adams chairs a discussion with eight *television addicts* (T) (911510)
11.55 Weather (604620)
12.00 Despatch Box (90640)
12.30am BBC Learning Zone: Open University: Changes in Rural Society — Piedmont and Sicily (82331) **1.30** Venice and Antwerp: Forms of Religion (27331) **2.00** Schools: PSHE — Turning Points/Lifeschool A-Z (28282) **4.00** Languages: Make German Your Business — Part Two (59534) **5.00** Business and Training: Web Wise — Communicating Online (3875824) **5.45** Open University: The Thrie Estaitis (2372282) **6.10** Angelica Kauffman, RA and the Choice of Painting (7799534) **6.35** The Colonial Encounter (5693331)

HTV WEST

5.30am ITV Morning News (41794)
6.00 GMTV (2473336)
9.25 Trisha (T) (3126607)
10.30 This Morning (T) (49733775)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (7696959)
12.30 ITV News; Weather (T) (2210713)
12.55 Shortland Street (1379591)
1.30 Home and Away (T) (16786317)
1.55 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous American talk show (T) (5644775)
2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (2633930)
3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (5341626)
3.15 HTV News (T) (5340997)
3.20 *CITV:* Maisy (5330510) **3.25** Oggy and the Cockroaches (5320133) **3.35** Rupert (2067152) *4.00 The New Scooby Doo* Mysteries (268) **4.30** Polterguests (152)
5.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (2930)
5.30 Garden Calendar (T) (404)
5.58 HTV Weather (637572)
6.00 HTV News (T) (915862)
6.25 Party Election Broadcast By the Labour Party (287626)
6.29 Crimestoppers (287626)
6.30 ITV Evening News; *Weather* (T) (997)
7.00 Wish You Were Here? Anthea Turner visits Skegness, Judith Chalmers explores Kenya's Masai Mara and Martin Roberts cruises down the Nile (T) (2794)



Spider and Nita enjoy a romantic meal for two (7.30pm)

7.30 Coronation Street (T) (881)
8.00 Airline Behind the scenes at Britannia Airways, the world's biggest charter airline, following the daily lives of staff at Manchester airport and profiling passengers, beginning with 19-year-old Ayesha, who is jetting off to Ibiza in search of stardom (1/6) (r) (T) (1442)
8.30 Cop Shop CID search for evidence to nail the brutal attacker of a naval worker, while Inspector Clive Ayling reluctantly considers early retirement. Andy and Serena, meanwhile, are devastated to learn they are not allowed to work together any more (7/8) (T) (7249)
9.00 CHOICE **The Blonde Bombshell** First *of a two-part drama based on* the life of Diana Dors (T) (62677862)
10.55 *ITV Nightly News;* Weather (T) (364317)
11.15 HTV News and Weather (T) (605442)
11.25 Fitz (T) (645930)
12.25am Football Extra (r) (9529447)
1.25 World Football (r) (5244850)
***1.55 Circus of Horrors* (1960)** A plastic surgeon sets to work changing the faces *of criminals working at his circus. Chiller,* starring Donald Pleasence (301027)
***3.30* Trisha** (r) (T) (24824)
4.30 Night Shift (83430263)
4.50 ITV Nightscreen (74940060)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (76621)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except: **5.30pm-5.58 House to House** A space-age room for twins (T) (404)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Central News;** Weather (T) (7696959) **12.55 Home and Away** (T) (2295404) **1.25 The Jerry Springer Show** Outrageous American talk show (T) (4469220) **2.10-2.40 High Road** (89432591) **3.15-3.20 Central News;** Weather (T) (5340997) **5.30 Shortland Street** (404) **6.00-6.25 Central News at Six;** Weather (T) (915862) **11.15-11.25 Central News;** Weather (T) (605442) **4.30am Central Jobfinder '99** (T) (2776485) **5.20-5.30 Asian Eye** (9134602)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: **12.15pm Westcountry News** (T) (7696959) **12.27-12.30 Illuminations** (9822607) **12.55-1.25 Westcountry Lunchtime Live;** Weather (T) (2295404) **1.25 The Jerry Springer Show** Outrageous American talk show (T) (4469220) **2.10-2.40 Home and Away** Fisher loses patience with Marilyn; Joel is careful not to give Brook and Mara the wrong idea; and Will's support means a lot to Joey (T) (89432591) **3.15-3.20 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (5340997) **4.58-5.00 Birthday People** (9951132) **5.30 Animal SOS** (404) **6.00-6.25 Westcountry Live;** Weather (T) (915862) **11.15-11.25 News;** Weather (T) (605442)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: ***12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;*** Weather (7696959) ***5.30 A Weekend's Work*** *(5/7) (r) (404)* ***6.00-6.25 Meridian Tonight*** (T) (915862) ***7.29-7.30 Meridian Weather*** *(314539)* ***11.15 Meridian News;*** Weather (T) (605442) ***11.25-12.25 Prisoner: Cell Block H*** *(645930)* ***5.00am-5.30*** **Freescreen** (T) (76621)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: **12.14pm Anglia Air Watch** (9827152) **12.15-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (7696959) **5.25 Take It On** (1074012) **5.29 Anglia Air Watch** (1074012) **5.30-6.00 Anglia News Monday Extra;** Weather (T) (404) **6.00-6.25 Anglia News** (T) (915862) **11.14 Anglia Air Watch** (212881) **11.15-11.25 Anglia News** (T) (605442)

S4C

Starts **5.55am Sesame Street** (r) (28509607) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (69469171) **9.00 Ysgolion:** The English Programme (92537607) **9.25 Schools at Work** (67708171) **9.45 Artistiaid Yng Nghymru** (37294794) **10.00 Stage Two Science** (62107220) **10.15 People in Society** (62120171) **10.30 Place and People** (39471881) **10.45 Same Difference** (39476336) **11.00 Rat-A-Tat-Tat** (25854607) ***11.15 The Mix*** *(25837930)* **11.30 Taste of the Times** (5/6) (90171065) **12.00 Right to Reply** (63900133) **12.30pm *Sesame* Street** (93891201) **1.00 439930) 1.30 Classic Cars** *(8/8) (T) (93890572)* **2.00 Trading Up** (3/6) (T) (41228336) **2.30 Hampton Court Palace** (T) *(32044713)* ***3.30 Collectors' Lot*** (T) (99852084) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (99831 591) ***4.30 The Montel Williams Show*** *(T)* (99837775) **5.00 Planed Plant** (41219688) ***5.30 Countdown*** (T) (99851355) **6.00 Party Election Broadcast** (70670959) **6.05 Newyddion 6** (T) (70662930) ***6.10 Heno*** *(T)* (39166220) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (41222152) ***7.30* Darllediad Etholiadol** (56350355) **7.35 Newyddion** (T) (31792171) **8.05 Ma' Ifan 'Ma** (T) (84155626) ***8.35 Glan Clwyd*** (T) (52354591) **9.05 Etholiad '99** (54420133) **10.05 Sgorio** (T) (76564442) **11.05 Equinox** (T) (28053220) **12.05am Driven** (1/15) (T) (15815350) **12.35 FILM: *Roswell*** Fact-based drama about a US Army officer's 30-year search for the truth about the government cover-up of his discovery of a UFO in the desert near Roswell, New Mexico, *in* 1947. With Kyle MacLachlan and Martin Sheen. Directed by Jeremy Kagan (56593060) **2.15 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

5.35am The Pink Panther (2310442)
5.55 Sesame Street (r) (5579775)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (67171)
9.00 Schools: The English Programme (7522688) **9.25** Schools at Work (3776249) **9.30** Geography Junction (7911688) **9.45** Book Box (7932171) **10.00** Stage Two Science (1107930) **10.15** People in Society (1120881) **10.30** Place and People (9096046) **10.50** Same Difference (8212959) **11.00** Rat-a-Tat-Tat (6906133) **11.15** The Mix (6929084)
11.30 Taste of the Times *(5/6) (r) (T) (7220)*
12.00 Sesame Street (r) (T) (38510)
12.30pm Bewitched (r) (T) (63794)
1.00 Caroline in the City (T) (37930)
1.30 Little Gems (T) (58546626)
1.45 My Dream is Yours (1949) A Hollywood talent scout pulls out all the stops to help his newly discovered singing sensation to achieve stardom. Musical comedy-drama, with Doris Day. Directed by Michael Curtiz (T) (93464978)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (775)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (510)
4.30 Countdown (T) (7096442)
4.55 Montel Williams (T) (9841775)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (666)
6.00 Roseanne Dan and Roseanne invest in a friend's business aimed at renovating and selling old homes (r) (T) (959)
6.30 Hollyoaks Ruth comes clean to Lewis (T) (539)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (593626)
7.50 Margaret Thatcher: Where Am I Now? New series. Cartoonist Steve Bell provides an animated insight into the Thatcher years (1/5) (T) (182152)
8.00 CHOICE **Mystery of the Mummies** Archaeologists investigate the lost civilisation of the Zoque in the Mexican jungle (3/3) (T) (1775)
9.00 CHOICE **Equinox** Report on a mass *programme of involuntary* sterilisation, ordered by the Swedish *Government in 1934 (T)* (1539)



Michael J. Fox and Julie Warner share a romantic interlude (10pm)

10.00 Doc Hollywood (1991) Comedy *romance, starring* Michael J. Fox as an arrogant Hollywood plastic surgeon whose *outlook on life changes when he is* stranded in rural South Carolina. Directed *by Michael Caton-Jones (T)* (213591)
11.55 Smack the Pony (r) (T) (783959)
12.30am And the Beat Goes On (5/8) (r) (3296640)
1.35 Dispatches (r) (T) (9028282)
2.05 Powerhouse Political news (8300244)
2.30 Right to Reply (r) (10602)
3.00 The Client (r) (3169824)
3.50 La Sosta Two friends renew their *acquaintance (28070350)*
4.00 Schools: Enter the Maths Zone (8907089) **5.15** The English Programme (9230195) **5.40** Film and Video Showcase (2384027)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport (5334997)
7.00 WideWorld (r) (T) (2284713)
7.30 Milkshake! (2072171)
7.35 Muppet Babies; 5 News Update (4403084)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (8283317)
8.30 Dappledown Farm *(r),* 5 News Update (8282688)
9.00 The Roseanne Show (5996626)
9.50 Russell Grant's Postcards (8304959)
9.55 The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (8130978)
10.20 Sunset Beach (T) (4696539)
11.10 Leeza (3351404)
12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (8286404)
12.30pm Family Affairs *(r) (T); 5 News Update* (1631143)
1.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (T) (4254065)
1.50 McMillan and Wife: Freefall to Terror (1975) The inquisitive duo investigate the apparent suicide of a business tycoon. Light-hearted mystery, starring Rock Hudson and Susan Saint James. Directed by Alf Kjellin; 5 News Update (28396572)
3.15 Irreconcilable Differences (1984) Drew Barrymore plays a determined nine-year-old out to obtain a "divorce" from the parents she accuses of negligence. Comedy, with Ryan O'Neal. Directed by Charles Shyer (T) (33929591)
5.10 5 News (59675201)
5.15 Russell Grant's Postcards (39117268)
5.30 100 Per Cent (6581268)
6.00 5 News; Weather. Kirsty Young rounds up the day's stories (T) (6571881)
6.30 Family Affairs (T); 5 News Update (6562133)
7.00 My Secret (2598317)
7.30 The Murder of Jamie Lavis Profile of Darren Vickers, the bus driver found guilty of abducting and murdering Manchester schoolboy Jamie in May 1997 (T), 5 News Update (6568317)
8.00 Instant Gardens Jac Flower and Myles *Matthews make progress on the* feng-shui garden (10/14) (T) (2507065)
8.30 Wildlife Police The illicit behaviour of a compulsive egg collector, and the actions of an undercover wildlife conservationist who infiltrated a gang of badger baiters (T); 5 News Update (2586572)
9.00 Buster (1988) Phil Collins stars in this romanticised account of the life and times of petty-thief-turned-train-robber Buster Edwards, whose peace is shattered by the police's relentless investigations, forcing him to go on the run to Mexico with his reluctant wife (Julie Walters). Directed by David Green (T); 5 News Update (49631539)
10.50 Dr Fox's Chart Update Latest hits (6734775)
10.55 Blindfold — Acts of Obsession **(TVM 1994)** Shannen Doherty stars in this *erotic thriller about an oversexed woman* whose sessions with a therapist lead to a series of grisly murders. Directed by Lawrence L. Simeone (98086572)
12.35am NHL Ice Hockey '99 *Richard Orford* and Todd Macklin present quarter-final action (91752824)
4.00 AMA Supercross (8239602)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (6378447)

SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (96369) **7.30** Godzilla (80046) **8.00** Pokemon (84713) *8.30 Hollywood Squares (83084) 9.00* Sally Jessy Raphael (77133) **10.00** Oprah Winfrey (79930) **11.00** Guilty! (99794) **12.00** Jenny Jones (91591) **1.00pm** Mad About You (93510) **1.30** Jeopardy (11355) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (57220) *3.00* Jenny Jones (20539) **4.00** Guilty! (95666) **5.00** Deep Space Nine (8997) **6.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (2201) **6.30** Friends (6881) **7.00** Simpsons (9626) **7.30** The Simpsons (2065) **8.00** Voyager (50268) **9.00** First Wave (30404) **10.00** South Park (55201) **10.30** King of the Hill (71249) **11.00** Friends (45125) **11.30** Deep Space Nine (65510) **12.30am** Chris Evans (33089) **1.30** Law and Order (4134805) **2.30** Long Play

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51)
Deconstructing Harry (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)
Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59)
Titanic (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)
Hard Rain (1998)

SKY PREMIER

5.05am *Hollywood Buzz* (8876562) **6.00** Femmes Fatales (7750510) **6.55 Clubhouse Detectives (1996)** (7971171) **8.20 Nico the Unicorn (1998)** (78368143) **10.00 Forbidden Territory: Stanley's Search for Livingstone (1997)** (335733) **2.00 Clubhouse Detectives (1996)** (54404) **3.30** Barry Norman (9355) **4.00 Nico the Unicorn (1998)** (11599607) **5.50 Selena (1997)** (84064220) **8.00 The Frighteners (1996)** (47794) **10.00 Air Force One (1997)** (93470355) **12.05am Surviving Picasso (1996)** (29775992) **2.10 Glory (1989)** (38213805) **4.15 Forbidden Territory: Stanley's Search for Livingstone (1997)** (815992)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.20am Behind the Waterfall (1995) (72740311) **7.00 Kingdom of the Spiders (1977)** (85591) **9.00 Gus (1976)** (68336) **11.00 In Your Wildest Dreams (1991)** (19962) **1.00 Kingdom of the Spiders (1977)** (62152) **3.00 Gus (1976)** (76626) **5.00 In Your Wildest Dreams (1993)** (80133) **7.00 Seasons of the Heart (1994)** (96341) **9.00 Escape from Atlantis (1997)** (48423) **11.00 Bad Moon (1996)** (878881) **12.20am Logan's War: Bound by Honour (1991)** (673195) **1.55 Spellbinder (1988)** (668824) **3.35 Exception to the Rule (1996)** (577195)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Around the World in 80 Days (1956) (35664626) **6.15 Tarzan and the She-Devil (1953)** (70288249) **8.00 Seven Days in May (1964)** (3655161) **10.00 Brubaker (1980)** (86317959) **12.10am *The Nelson Affair (1973)*** (1230027) **2.10 Compulsion (1959)** (3505517) **3.55 Private Hell 36 (1954)** (38437447)

FILMFOUR

6.00pm *John Huston's War Stories* (73073510) **7.40** Urban Fairytale (7495930) ***8.00 Come and See* (1985)** (31375423) **10.25 Welcome to Sarajevo (1997)** (8087626) **12.15am** Two Little Girls and a War (9205669) **12.30 The Deer Hunter (1978)** (4127263) **3.30 Good Morning, Vietnam (1987)** (4063331) **6.05** Close

TNT

9.00pm The Night of the Iguana (1964) (39114930) **11.30 The Seventh Cross (1944)** (94252249) ***1.45am Savage Messiah* (1972)** (82034331) **3.30 The Split (1968)** (30483176) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Football Special **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style **10.00** Scottish Football *11.00 Max Power 12.00 Aerobics* Oz Style **12.30pm** What a Weekend **1.00** Football Special **3.00** Spanish Football **5.00** Ten Pin Bowling **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** Football Special: PFA Awards **7.30** What a Weekend *8.00 NASCAR 10.00* Sports Centre **10.15** You're On Sky Sports! **11.00** Football Special: PFA Awards **12.00** Sports Centre **1.00am** International Bowls **3.00** Sports Centre **3.15** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style **7.30** Racing News **8.00** US Golf **10.30** European Tour Golf **12.30pm** Motorcycling **2.00** NASCAR *4.00* Max Power *5.00 Scottish Football 6.00* Rebel Sports **6.30** What a Weekend **7.00** V-Max **7.30** Football League Special **9.00** Football Special PFA Awards **10.00** Ten Pin Bowling **11.00** NFL Europe **11.30** Rebel Sports **12.00** *Football League Special* **1.30am** Football Special: PFA Awards **2.30** Sports Centre **2.45** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00am Super League **2.00pm** Rugby Union **3.30** NFL Europe **6.30** Total Sport *7.00 Fish TV 8.00 International Bowls 10.00* Wonderful World of Golf **11.00** A to Z of Motor Sport **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Motorcycling **8.30** Cycling **9.30** Football **11.00** Trial Biking **12.00** Roller Skating **1.00pm** *Mountain Biking* **1.30** Ice Hockey **2.30** Football **4.30** Ten Pin Bowling **5.30** Shooting **6.30** Trial Biking **7.00** Extreme Sports **8.00** American Billiards **10.00** Football **11.30** Motorcycling **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **9.30** The House of Eliott **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Bugs **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** Dangerfield **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em **7.40** Last of the Summer Wine **8.20** Dad's Army **9.00** Casualty **10.05** The Sculptress **12.15am** The Bill **12.45** The Bill **1.15** Between the Lines **2.10** Dad's Army **3.00** Shopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Wish Me Luck **7.00** Plus On Plus *7.30 The Odd Couple 8.00 Families* **8.30** Mind Your Language **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale **10.00** Upstairs Downstairs **11.00** Charlie's Angels **12.00** Classic Coronation Street **12.30pm** Emmerdale **1.00** Mind Your Language **1.30** Me and My Girl **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Professionals **5.00** Charlie's Angels **6.00** Emmerdale **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** The Professionals **8.00** The Benny Hill Show **9.00** The Sweeney *10.00 Hale and Pace* **10.30** The Comedians **11.00** Granada Men and Motors



Ben Lloyd, Mariel Hemingway and director Woody Allen star in the comedy *Deconstructing Harry* (Sky Box Office 1)

CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** Animal SOS **6.30** Our House **7.00** Boon **8.00** Birds of a Feather **8.30** A Kind of Living **9.00** The Ruth Rendell Mysteries **10.00** Big Sky **11.00** Hill Street Blues **12.00** Tales of the Unexpected **12.30am** Gridlock **1.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Gummi Bears **6.25** Classic Toons *6.35 Tale Spin 7.00 Classic Toons 7.10* Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.25** Classic Toons **8.45** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **9.00** The Adventures of Spot **9.07** Animal Shelf **9.17** *Pocket Dragon Adventures* **9.30** *Bear in the* Big Blue House **9.55** The Toothbrush Family **10.00** Bite Size **10.12** Rosie and Jim **10.30** The Big Garage **10.45** PB and J Otter **11.00** Sesame Street **12.00** The Adventures of Spot **12.07pm** Animal Shelf **12.17** Pocket Dragon Adventures **12.30** Bear in *the Big Blue House 12.55 The Toothbrush* Family **1.00** Bite Size **1.12** Rosie and Jim **1.30** *The Big Garage* **1.45** PB and J Otter **2.00** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.30** Quack Pack **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** *Hercules: The TV Show 5.00* Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00 FILM: Safety Patrol (1995)** **8.30** Honey, I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **9.15** Dinosaurs **10.00** Home Improvement **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Touched by an Angel **11.50** Classic Toons **12.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Power Rangers Turbo **6.55** Spiderman **7.20** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.30** Dennis and Gnasher **8.00** Hero Turtles: The Next Mutation **8.25** *The Incredible Hulk 8.50 Iron Man* **9.15** Fantastic Four **9.40** X-Men **10.05** Casper **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.55** Eek!Stravaganza **11.05** Bobby's World **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** The Secret Files of the Spy Dogs **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli: *The New Adventures of the Jungle Book* **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.55** The Incredible Hulk **2.20** Iron Man **2.45** Fantastic Four **3.10** X-Men **3.30** X-Press **3.35** Spiderman **4.00** Goosebumps **4.25** Hero Turtles: The Next Mutation **5.00** Dennis and Gnasher **5.30** Ace Ventura *6.00 Donkey Kong Country* **6.30** Eek!Stravaganza **6.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Extreme Ghostbusters **6.30** Bruno the Kid **7.00** CatDog **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** Hey Arnold! **8.30** Doug **9.00** *Children's BBC* **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Papa Beaver Stories **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear/Animal Antics/Family Ness **12.00** Rugrats **12.30pm** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Franklin **2.00** Paddington Bear/Lizzie's Library/Portland *Bill/Mr Men/Ivor the Engine* **2.30** Children's BBC **3.00** Children's BBC **3.30** Doug **4.00** Angry Beavers **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **6.30** The Secret Life of Alex Mack *7.00 Close*

BRAVO

8.00pm Martial Law **9.00** Cops **9.30** The *Late Lounge* **10.00** *Extreme Championship* Wrestling **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00** **FILM: Eleven Days, Eleven Nights II (1988)** **1.00am** Erotic Confessions **1.30** The Late Lounge **2.00** Martial Law **3.00** ***FILM: To the Limit* (1995)** **5.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **5.30** Cops **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Clueless **7.30** Caroline in the City **8.00** Mad About You **8.30** Spin City **9.00** *Drop the Dead Donkey* **9.30** Whose Line is it Anyway? **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** Spin City **12.00** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00am** Garry Shandling's Show **1.30** Nurses **2.00** Almost *Perfect* **2.30** Tibs and Fibs **3.00** Mork and Mindy **3.30** Abbott and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Battlestar Galactica **10.00** The Six Million Dollar Man **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** New Alfred Hitchcock ***12.00*** The Twilight Zone **12.30pm** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Cybernet **6.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **7.00** The Six Million Dollar Man **8.00** The Cape *9.00 Babylon 5 10.00 Monolith* (1993) **11.45** Sci-Focus Special **12.00** VR5 **1.00am FILM: The Wraith (1986)** **3.00** Dark Shadows **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am *Simply Painting 6.30 Instant* Gardens **7.00** Potted History with Antony Henn **7.30** The Great House Game **8.00** Australia's Strangest Home Improvements **8.30** The Close Guide **9.00** The Joy of *Painting 9.30 Grow for It 10.00 Instant* Gardens **10.30** Antiques Challenge **11.00** Hooked on Fishing with Paul Young **11.25** The Home and Leisure House **11.30** Total Fishing with Matt Hayes **12.00** These Four Walls **12.30pm** Doorstep DIY **1.00** The Furniture Guys **1.30** Gimme Shelter **2.00** *New Yankee Workshop* **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Two's Country Costa Del Sol

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** The Diceman **5.00** Rogues' Gallery **6.00** Outback Adventures **6.30** Cheetah: The Winning Streak **7.30** How Did They Build That? **8.00** Beyond the Truth **9.00** Mysteries of the Unexplained **10.00** Wolves at Our Door **11.00** Witches, Myth and Reality **12.00** Search for the Sea Serpent **1.00am** How Did They Build That? **1.30** The Diceman **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00am Hollywood Safari **1.00pm** Monkey Business **1.30** *Monkey Business* **2.00** Monkey Business **2.30** Wild Veterinarians **3.00** Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures **3.30** Jack Hanna's *Animal Adventures* **4.00** Patagonia — Living With Strangers **5.00** Wildlife Rescues **6.00** Pet Rescue **7.00** Wildlife SOS **7.30** Wildlife SOS **8.00** Animal Doctor **9.00** Emergency Vets **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** Emergency Vets **10.30** Emergency Vets **11.00** Emergency Vets **11.30** *Emergency Vets* **12.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm The Fur Seals Nursery **7.30** Africa Unbottled **8.30** Deep Flight **9.00** Living Science: Dead Reckoning **10.00** Killer Storms: Lightning **11.00** Extreme Earth: On the Trail of Killer Storms **12.00** On the Edge Windborn — A Journey into Flight

HISTORY

4.00pm Secrets of War: The Gulf War **5.00** Clash of Wings: The Plunge into Reality **6.00** The Great Train Robbery **6.55** Photos for the Future **7.00** The Way of the Samurai: The Warrior Tradition

CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **10.00** The Restaurant Show **10.30** Jenny Bristow's Country Cooking **11.00** Worrall Thompson Cooks *11.30 Ideal Home Cooks 12.00 Food* Network Daily **12.30pm** Nordic Nosh **1.00** Coxon's Kitchen College **1.30** Tessa's Tastebuds **2.00** Ross's Foreign Assignment **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Frances Bissell **3.30** *Ideal Home Cooks* **4.00** Grape Expectations **4.30** Gordon Ramsay's Passion for Flavour **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Can't Cook, Won't Cook **6.30** Animal Rescue **7.00** Professor Bubble **7.25** Caillou **7.30** Polka Dot **7.40** Johnson **7.50** Babaloos **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney **8.25** My Zoo **8.30** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Parenting **9.00** Special Babies **9.30** Home and Away **10.00** Jerry Springer **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Through the Keyhole **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Beyond Belief **1.40** Maury Povich **2.00** Special Babies **3.00** Living Room **3.50** Michael Cole **4.40** Home and Away *5.10 Through the Keyhole 5.40 Can't* Cook, Won't Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** LA Law **9.00** Ally McBeal **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

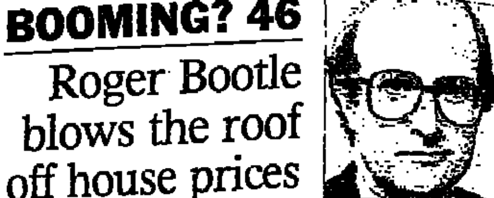
5.00am Amar Kathayen **5.30** Sa Re Ga Ma **6.00** Your Zindagi **6.30** Geet Gata Chal **7.00** Faith: Hindu **7.30** Daily News **8.00** Ru-Ba-Ru **8.30** Tara 2 **9.00** Jaan **9.30** *Banegi Apni Baat 10.00* Karb **11.00** Jhat Pat Khana **11.30** Parampara **12.00** Hindi FILM **3.00pm** Bangla TV: Nokhaurer Pat **3.30** Ikke Pe Ikka **4.00** Films Chakkar **4.30** Quiz Contest **5.00** Neeyat **5.30** Chahat Aur Nafrat **6.00** Music Mag **6.30** Cha Cha Cha **7.00** Ghar Jamai **7.30** Filmi Baatein **8.00** News **8.30** Mausam **9.00** *Sa Re Ga Ma* **10.00** Talking To **10.30** Up Beat **11.00** Snapath **11.30** Mama Miya **12.00** News **12.30am** Aap Ki Adalat **1.00** Bangla TV **1.30** Parivartan **2.00** Bengali FILM



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Behind the scenes at Dixons

BUSINESS

BOOMING? 46
Roger Bootle blows the roof off house prices



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY APRIL 26 1999

World awaits reforms to hold crises in check

By Anatole Kaletsky

MAJOR reforms of the global financial system, designed to contain future crises such as the ones that have hit Asia, Latin America and Russia, are due to be approved this week at meetings of the Group of Seven and the IMF.

Finance ministers and central bank governors gathering in Washington over the weekend indicated that they are close to agreement on most of the key measures to strengthen the "global financial architecture" proposed in the wake of the Russian crisis by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor.

The reforms, due to be approved in principle this week but implemented only gradually from the autumn onwards, fall into six broad categories:

☐ A new "contingent credit line" (or CCL) will be created to stop the spread of financial contagion. Countries that submit their economic policies to prior approval by the IMF will be guaranteed large credit facilities with almost no strings attached and available immediately to protect themselves against attacks by international speculators. The CCL scheme will potentially be backed not only by the IMF's $76 billion (£47 billion) of uncommitted resources and its $46 billion of pre-arranged credit lines, but also by the possibility of additional parallel lending from the treasuries and central banks of the G7.

☐ The IMF will formally adopt a new attitude to economic management designed to create "sustainable exchange rate regimes". It will discourage developing countries from basing policies on fixed exchange rates. Countries will instead be encouraged to adopt floating or adjustable exchange rates, except in the small number of cases, such as Hong Kong and Argentina, where governments are willing and able to adopt currency boards.

☐ New codes on financial supervision and monetary management will be designed to improve surveillance over speculation by banks and hedge funds. Central banks in the G7 countries will also be expected to operate in a more transparent manner — a proposal resisted by the European Central Bank.

☐ Reforms will ensure that private sector lenders make bigger concessions if developing countries default. This may require changes in English and New York law.

☐ New efforts will be made to protect the poorest people in developing countries from global financial crises. The IMF and World Bank will be told to redesign adjustment programmes to give higher priority to social safety nets.

☐ The poorest developing nations will be given additional relief from their unsustainable debt burdens.

While these principles have now been broadly agreed, Germany and Japan are still reported to be obstructing detailed agreement.

The programme will also disappoint advocates of granting complete debt relief to the pooorest countries.

BT in £1.2bn deal to buy Japan stake

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

BRITISH TELECOM and American Telephone & Telegraph (AT&T), its worldwide partner, are to spend £1.2 billion to take a 30 per cent stake in Japan Telecom, a long-distance carrier.

The deal, announed yesterday, pushes ahead with the strategy of building a global network by taking significant minority stakes in foreign telephone companies.

Taking the stake in Japan Telecom, which BT believes is the third-largest telecoms player in the $100 billion a year Japanese market, is a final recognition that the UK company is unlikely to be able to invest in the domestic business of NTT, Japan's dominant national operator.

Under the deal signed yesterday in Tokyo, BT and AT&T will each subscribe for 15 per cent of the shares in Japan Telecom which has built a fibre-optic network running along the routes of Japan Railways.

BT is putting up most of the money and will have an economic interest of 20 per cent in the venture compared with AT&T's 10 per cent. But the two companies will jointly manage their investment.

The shareholding levels were set because the largest investor in the company is Japanese Railways East with 15.1 per cent. This status will be preserved.

BT is investing about £620 million in cash in the venture and AT&T, its partner in a $10 billion (£6 billion) global joint co-operation, will put up about £130 million. The balance of the £1.2 billion investment will come in the form of BT and AT&T businesses in Japan which will be integrated with Japan Telecom. These include BT Communications Services.

Sir Peter Bonfield, BT's chief executive, said yesterday that, when BT entered the Japanese market in 1985, the aim was to become a strong force in the world's second-largest telecoms market after the US.

"This deal will allow Japan Telecom to become the number one challenger in Japan," Sir Peter said. According to BT, Japan Telecom, which so far has about 17 million customers as well as interests in mobile operators with six million subscribers, comes after NTT and KDD.

Others contend that Japan Telecom also lags behind IDC, in which Cable & Wireless has an interest. Yesterday BT was adamant that its policy of seeking partnerships, backed up by minority stakes, around the world, was the right one even though other international players such as Cable & Wireless had been getting rid of their minority stakes. "We are very keen to have a spread of investments, then we can buy up and sell down. It gives us flexibility," said Andy Green, director of group strategy and mobility.

Yesterday's agreement, which should close by the autumn, means that BT has doubled its existing investment in Asia to $2 billion. Under the deal 400 employees from both BT and AT&T will transfer from the Japanese companies of the Western telephone groups to Japan Telecom and both companies will have an executive and non-executive director on the Japan Telecom board. Although Japan Telecom is a residential telephone operator, BT and AT&T's main interest in the venture will be the expansion of business with Japanese multinationals in Japan and in the coming third-generation mobile systems. BT executives said yesterday that future international investments would not necessarily be with AT&T, despite the global joint venture now awaiting final approval from US regulators.

LINKS
WEBSITE:
http://www.bt.co.uk/World/news/

JOAN RUSSELL / GUZELIAN

Finishing touches are put to the marquee where a special members' meeting of the Bradford & Bingley Building Society meeting will be held today

B&B members prepare for windfall

By Susan Emmett and Robert Cole

TWO-AND-A-HALF million customers of the Bradford & Bingley Building Society can look forward to windfall payments of at least £800 to £1,000 as it becomes increasingly likely that the vote on the society's future will prompt the conversion of B&B into a bank.

Some believe that the windfalls could top £2,000, but the confirmed result of the vote will not be known until later today. A special members' meeting is being held this afternoon at the B&B's Yorkshire headquarters in Crossflatts, near Bingley.

If the members vote for conversion, it is likely that the B&B board will begin to press ahead with a flotation on the London Stock Exchange. However, a pro vote will also excite frenzied speculation about whether B&B will actually make it to the stock maket as an independent entity. AXA and Prudential, the insurance groups, among others, may jump in to acquire the firm.

In Crossflatts, finishing touches were being made to the arrangements for the special meeting. A marquee, capable of accommodating 1,000 people, has been erected.

About 1.5 million — or 60 per cent — of the society's 2.5 million members have already voted on the issue. Some believe that 800,000 have been cast in favour of conversion.

The result may be tight, but senior B&B personnel, who have been engaged in defending the society's mutual status, have conceded that the result could go against them, and in favour of the windfall seeking carpetbaggers. Banking analysts also say there is a high likelihood that the society will convert.

However, cautious observers point out that confident, but ultimately mistaken, predictions were being made about a similar vote at the Nationwide Building Society last year. In the event, the pro-mutuality camp won the day.

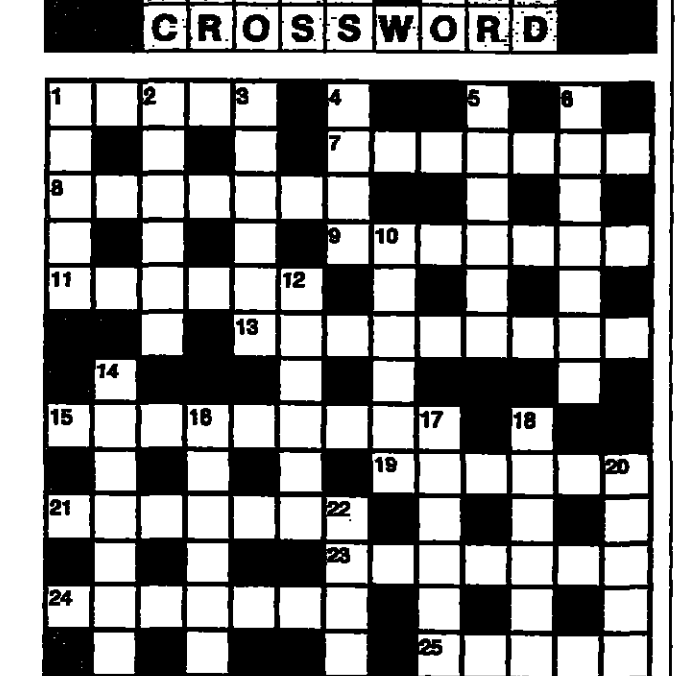
The B&B vote is being viewed as a watershed decision not only for Bradford & Bingley but for the building society movement as a whole. The board is not legally required to accept members' decision. Christopher Rodrigues, chief executive, will take account of the size of the poll turnout before deciding whether to act on the result of the vote. But he is unlikely to seek to thwart a clear majority vote by savers and borrowers.

B&B, is the UK's second-largest society. It has spent £5 million fighting the pro-conversion campaign led by Stephen Major, the quantity surveyor and plumber.

The B&B board, has maintained that members are better off with a mutual organisation. Such claims have been backed by high-profile figures such as Martin Bell, former war correspondent for the BBC and Independent MP for Tatton, and John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC.

On the other hand, members in favour of conversion say that the one-off benefit of a windfall, plus dividends from shares owned, would more than compensate for anything lost if the firm's savings and mortgage rates became less competitive.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1701

ACROSS
1 (Club) handle: (light) ray (5)
7 Passage inside house (7)
8 Steady bombardment: type of 6 (7)
9 Shine as star; gleam in eye (7)
11 Fencing sword (6)
13 S France once (9); its language (6,3)
15 Wrinkles round eyes (5,4)
19 Solid, rugged (6)
21 Argument (7)
23 Collapse inwards (7)
24 Goodbye: good health! (7)
25 William II nickname (5)

DOWN
1 Clear-headed: serious, unflamboyant (5)
2 Sudden (6)
3 Go on journey (6)
4 Sharpen (blade, interest) (4)
5 Projecting rim (6)
6 Party inflatable (7)
10 Richard —, *Ring* composer (6)
12 Charity prize draw (6)
14 Under stress; filled (with) (7)
16 Jail official (6)
17 Lethargy (6)
18 Postpone; deter, distract (3,3)
20 Adolescent years (5)
22 Big cat (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1700
ACROSS: 1 Clues 4 Envious 8 Morning 9 Toner 10 Brook 11 Garden 13 Disuse 15 Anther 18 Tailor 20 Kirov 22 Crier 23 Trellis 24 Russell 25 Sorry
DOWN: 1 Camp beds 2 Uproots 3 Slick 4 Engage 5 Veteran 6 Ounce 7 Sark 12 Travesty 14 Splurge 16 Hurdler 17 Brutal 19 Amiss 20 Keeps 21 Scar

Littlewoods to spread its bets

By Christine Buckley

LITTLEWOODS is to split off its leisure ventures from its mail order and retail operations, heightening speculation that the pools and betting business could eventually be sold or floated on the stock market.

The divisions will be run by separate boards under a shake-up due to take effect on Saturday. Roger Withers, chairman of Bass Leisure South Africa, will be the non-executive chairman of the leisure operation.

Littlewoods dismissed anticipation of a sale or flotation of the business as speculation. The organisation is wholly owned by the Moores family, but the 30 shareholders in the family have given up day-to-day running of the group.

Splitting Littlewoods's core operations in two is the biggest move so far by its chairman, James Ross, the former head of Cable & Wireless.

Barry Gibson, the chief executive, who joined last September from BAA, said: "Littlewoods Leisure and Littlewoods Retail address very separate markets and the leisure business will benefit from the dedicated focus that will come from a separate board."

Littlewoods's leisure side has been under pressure from the National Lottery. The company has invested £20 million to strengthen the business and has started a telephone betting service — Bet Direct.



Ross: biggest move so far

PowerGen stations fetch £1.4bn

By Christine Buckley

MISSION ENERGY of the US has won the race for both of the power stations PowerGen has been forced to sell by the Government. An announcement will come today or tomorrow.

The company, which owns First Hydro, the Welsh hydroelectricity station that is vital for providing power at peak times, has paid £1.4 billion for the two stations — Ferrybridge in West Yorkshire and Fiddlers Ferry on Merseyside.

Mission, which is part of Edison International, beat off contenders including the US's NRG. The stations have been sold at a premium to the £1.1 billion they were expected to raise.

All those interested in buying the stations went through a government vetting process. A key consideration was whether the stations should go to separate buyers or as a pair. The Government was convinced that one buyer, if the right one, could provide greater competition than two.

Record merger activity

By Robert Cole

THE volume of mergers and acquisition activity across Europe shot to a record in the first three months of the year. According to Thomson Financial Securities Data, the financial information provider, $345 billion (£213 billion) worth of deals were struck in the quarter.

This is more than $200 billion greater than in the first quarter of 1998 and beats the previous quarter record, set in the last part of 1998, which saw $193 billion of deals. The rise was assisted by the outbreak of activity surrounding Telecom Italia and among the French banks. But the quarter also set a record for the number of deals struck.

JP Morgan, the investment bank, jumped up the European adviser rankings. Helped by its efforts with Telecom Italia, JPM displaced Goldman Sachs as the adviser on most European deals, as measured by value. JPM commanded a 20 per cent market share in the first quarter, and worked on 26 deals.

In the latest period Morgan Stanley Dean Witter took second place and Warburg Dillon Read came third. Goldman, which slipped to sixth place in the rankings, leads the way globally.